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Majali briefed on NRA efforts

AMMAN (Petra) — Natural Resources Authority (NRA) Director Fakhreddin Al-Daghestani Wednesday briefed Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali on the NRA's exploration for oil and other minerals in cooperation with a number of foreign companies. He also outlined efforts to promote Jordan's capabilities in mineral exploration and regulations, recently introduced by the NRA in order to conform to its plans to expand work. The prime minister attended the half-monthly meeting of the NRA's directors in the presence of Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Walid Asfour. Dr. Majali said the government was going ahead with plans to facilitate public administration work to serve the public and was giving more authority to the governors to settle problems in their own areas. The prime minister outlined the country's economic and political situations in general and issues pertaining to the Middle East.

France summons Iranian envoy

PARIS (AFP) — Iran's charge d'affaires Mohammad Khodadadi was summoned to the French foreign ministry to be informed of the government's concern following grenade attacks on the French embassy and Air France offices in Tehran, a foreign ministry official said Wednesday. Ministry spokesman Richard Drupe said Mr. Khodadadi was called in late Tuesday. The Iranian authorities were asked to find out who mounted the attacks and to strengthen protective measures. The charge d'affaires had given assurances that the authorities were taking the necessary measures to protect French property, Mr. Drupe said. The blasts on Tuesday wounded one person. A group calling itself Hizbollah of southern Tehran said it carried out the attacks in retaliation for France giving refuge to Marjani Rajavi, wife of rebel chief Massoud Rajavi, who heads the Mujahedeen-e-Khalq.

Turkey warns Iraqi Kurds

ANKARA (R) — Turkey, saying it will not permit a regrouping of rebel Kurds in northern Iraq, asked Iraqi Kurds Wednesday to keep the separatists away from its border. "We have information that the PKK is trying to regroup in the area. Turkey's tolerance for something like this is out of question," Foreign Ministry spokesman Ferhat Ataman told a news briefing. He was replying to a question on Turkish press reports that military posts built in northern Iraq by Turks for Iraqi Kurdish Peshmergas were now used by rebels of the separatist Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) as springboards for raids in Turkey (Emergency extended, page 2).

Serbs free abducted Croat bodyguards

SARAJEVO (R) — Serbs handed two Bosnian government security guards over to the United Nations on Wednesday, two days after they were abducted at gunpoint from a U.N. armored car, a U.N. spokesman said. The two men, both Croats, were released to the custody of a U.N. military delegation at the Serbs' Lukavica garrison outside besieged Sarajevo at 1700 GMT.

Fateh to meet Friday on deal with Israel

TUNIS (R) — The Revolutionary Council of Fateh will meet in Tunis Friday for the first time since the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) signed a self-rule agreement with Israel in September, officials said Wednesday. The 107-strong body, which meets between sessions of the full Fateh congress, is expected to approve the agreement formally and assess the negotiations between the PLO and Israel on putting the agreement into effect, they said.

Israel said to agree to cut Gaza troops

CAIRO (R) — Israel has agreed to cut its troop presence outside Jewish settlements in Gaza, producing progress in five weeks of negotiations for Palestinian self-rule, sources close to the Israeli-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) talks said Wednesday. The breakthrough, which could clear the way for an Israeli withdrawal from the West Bank town of Jericho and the Gaza Strip by Dec. 13, was achieved after two days of crisis talks between the PLO and Israel at a secret location in Cairo.

"Significant progress has been made in the meetings. I expect we will achieve the desired results in December but I still feel there are many obstacles to overcome," Nabil Shaath, head of the Palestinian negotiating team, told Reuters.

Dr. Shaath said the sixth round of PLO-Israel talks would be held either on Monday or Tuesday of next week in the Egyptian Red Sea resort of Taba.

Sources close to the meetings said the Israeli delegation, led by General Amnon Shihak, provided the Palestinians with amended maps for the withdrawal plan from Gaza which they said this time amounted to withdrawal rather than redeployment.

Under the modified Israeli security plan, Israel would

keep troops around Jewish settlements but would evacuate some roads and areas and hand them over to the Palestinians in line with the peace accord signed in Washington on Sept. 13.

"In their previous meetings the Israelis have demanded to maintain control of half of the land to protect the settlements but this time there has been a significant change in their concept," one source said.

"We could not have returned to the talks had the Israelis not changed their security concept to make it close to withdrawal rather than redeployment," another PLO source added.

PLO negotiators walked out of the talks in Taba last week saying the withdrawal plan did not go far enough. The PLO said the deadlock was over Israel's intention to keep 4,000 troops in Gaza and control 160 of the 370 square kilometres on the pretext of protecting 17 settlements and 3,000 settlers.

The sources said the two sides did not touch on the Israeli troop deployment around the settlements — a highly sensitive issue for Israel which needs to protect the Jewish settlers from attacks by Palestinian hardliners.

Dr. Shaath told Egyptian Television on Tuesday night. "In the two days of meeting there has been a crucial

amendment of this vision (withdrawal) and it has become now possible to get into details. We are getting very close to the concept of real withdrawal and not redeployment."

"Progress has been achieved. I will not give details but without this progress it would not have been possible to return to the negotiations and indulge in them in details," he said.

Dr. Shaath said the success of the withdrawal plan from Gaza and Jericho would set the way for the wider autonomy deal in the occupied territories Israel seized in the 1967 Middle East war.

The accord stipulates a five-year interim period during which both sides negotiate the final status of the territories.

Dr. Shaath said that both parties began defining the boundaries of self-rule for the area of Jericho, which has been a main point of controversy since the negotiations started in October.

The PLO say Jericho is between 340 to 370 square kilometres, nearly the size of Gaza. Israel is thinking of just 25 square kilometres.

Negotiators have stuck to a strict media blackout, not revealing the location of their talks in Cairo. Dr. Shaath and Gen. Shihak led reduced teams in the talks Monday and Tuesday.



Portuguese President Mario Soares waves to the press as he greets Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat upon his arrival Wednesday in Portugal (see page 10) for a two-day official visit (AFP photo)

IAF wants coalition

By Sae'da Kilani
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Secretary General of the Islamic Action Front (IAF) Ishaq Farhan said Wednesday that the victory of only 16 IAF candidates in the elections is, if assessed realistically, a sign of achievement, especially in light of the new Election Law and other circumstances in Jordan.

"The front succeeded in penetrating certain districts in which the Islamic movement had failed in the past," Dr. Farhan told a press conference. "Nineteen political parties won eight seats while the IAF alone won 16 seats... our popularity did not decrease."

Dr. Farhan said that the decrease in the Islamic movement's power in Parliament was only a media description. If studied objectively, Dr. Farhan asserted, one can deduce that the IAF succeeded for the first time in the Third District, securing the highest number of votes and also won seats in Ajloun and Jerash constituencies.

"The Islamic bloc carries (considerable) weight and is ready to form alliance with other parties and independents in Parliament and will extend its hand to any deputy willing to cooperate on the basis of public interest and national goals," Dr. Farhan said. "We will always stand in opposition to all normalisation policies with the enemy."

Dr. Farhan was asked how the front viewed the victory of the first Jordanian woman candidate, Toujan Faisal, who is also known for having been at odds with Islamists in Jordan. Dr. Farhan quoted a

Government ready to hear complaints on election results

By Suhair Obeidat
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The government announced Wednesday it was willing to receive any complaints by candidates contesting the results of Parliamentary elections which were formally announced Tuesday. It stressed that the figures were accurate.

Some candidates in Irbid and Amman's Fifth District who did not win seats Wednesday alleged there were discrepancies in the number of votes received by them and those announced officially.

A demonstration in Irbid and a sit-in at counting centre in Bayader Wadi Seer were staged to highlight these complaints. Another incident in northern Mazar in protest against the election results was dismissed by government sources no more than an inter-tribal feud in which one police officer was injured and the situation became totally under control.

Allegations in the Fifth and Irbid district were spurred by the delay in the announcement of the final results of these two districts till 7:30 a.m. Tuesday. The results of most of the districts came out in between 1 and 4 a.m.

The results of Balqa and Amman's Third District also came late but no complaints were launched there, even though rumour had it that some candidates were protesting the results.

A difference in the order of winners in Irbid between the results announced unofficially on Jordan Television and those announced Wednesday by Irbid Governor Fayez Abbadi was the result of a mistake in the first count, Mr. Abbadi

said Wednesday.

"We conducted a recount of the same ballot boxes to double-check the number of votes received by the candidates," Mr. Abbadi told the Jordan Times.

There were reports of demonstrations in various areas of the Irbid City, and the issue was resolved when the Irbid police chief arranged a meeting for today between the governor and some of the candidates contesting the results.

Official sources said that a committee was formed comprising four candidates who lost in Irbid (Mazen Abu Baker, Hassan Tal, and two unidentified others) and they are to visit the Irbid governor today to review with him the results.

"We are willing to receive them and any contestations will be looked into by the contestations committee of the Lower House," Mr. Abbadi said.

The delay spurred rumours of election rigging and there were reports of demonstrations in various areas in Irbid city and Northern Mazar, which is part of Irbid Governorate.

The Northern Mazar incident involved supporters of Irbid candidate Zaki Shurman, who hails from Northern Mazar. They clashed with the organisers of a luncheon banquet in honour of another candidate who won, and one of the policemen who arrived at the scene was injured.

Mohammad Abu Fares, the Islamic Action Front (IAF) candidate in the Amman's Fifth District who failed to win a seat, is also contesting the results.

(Continued on page 4)

Arafat may face 'coup d'etat'

AMMAN (R) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) officials, criticising a lack of democracy in the organisation, demanded Wednesday that Yasser Arafat improve his performance in implementing the PLO-Israel accord or face a "coup d'etat."

"Arafat's autocratic attitude and his apparently irresponsible behaviour has led to general discontent and serious doubts over the actual implementation of the autonomy deal," one official told Reuters.

Under the Israeli-PLO peace accord signed in September, Palestinians are supposed to be taking control of the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho beginning in December.

The PLO official said fear that Mr. Arafat was mishandling the plan had triggered formation of a "coalition of reformers from within the PLO who will pressure the chairman to democratise or resign."

The sources, who asked to remain anonymous so they could carry out their plans without interference by Mr. Arafat, said the group of PLO officials in Tunis and Palestinian leaders in the occupied territories were ready for an internal "coup d'etat" if their demands were ignored.

"We have drafted a political document to be submitted to Arafat soon that includes serious complaints of his handling of the implementation of the PLO-Israel accord," a PLO official said.

He said Mr. Arafat had to meet demands in the document "or else we will call for an urgent meeting of the Palestine National Council in order to change the present leadership."

Officials said the demands would be a guide for any future alternative collective leadership. They include respecting institutions, better planning and involving all Palestinians in building the national authority that is to act as a provisional government in the Gaza Strip and Jericho.

"The old mentality of leading a revolution can no longer be accepted at this stage and we cannot risk losing this historic opportunity of building our state by leaving Arafat to work haphazardly and without planning," one PLO official said.

Mr. Arafat, who has continued his old style of constant travel, flew on Wednesday from Brussels to Portugal for meetings with government officials (see page 10).

Peres sees eventual accord with Jordan

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said Wednesday that Jordan had concluded it would ultimately sign a peace deal with Israel.

"I don't know what's holding (Jordan) up," Mr. Peres said. "There are still dozens of subjects that must be clarified and agreed upon but I think strategically (Jordan) has decided."

Mr. Peres dismissed speculation that King Hussein would join Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin at a White House meeting on Friday with President Bill Clinton.

"This is one of those things that require more exacting preparations. Everything comes in its proper time, but that time has not come yet," Mr. Peres told Israeli Radio.

Mr. Rabin on Thursday will begin an official trip to the United States and Canada, mainly to discuss Arab-Israeli peace.

Mr. Peres brushed aside an

Israeli news report on Wednesday that Israel and Jordan initiated a peace agreement during a rumoured secret visit he paid to Amman last week.

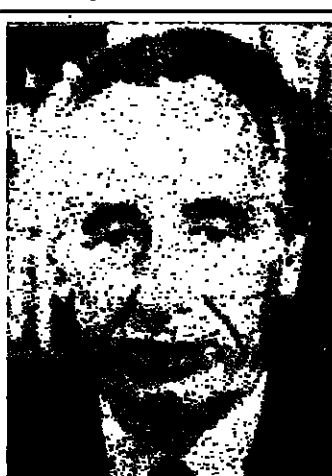
The newspaper Maariv said that under the agreement Israel would cede parts of the Dead Sea and the Arava desert to Jordan, which would then lease them back at a nominal price.

"This is something for negotiation and I wouldn't jump to put the car before the horse," Mr. Peres said.

Housing Minister Binjamin Ben-Eliezer told the radio: "In principle an (Israeli-Jordanian) agreement is locked in and done, certainly the economic part of it, which it seems to me we will come out with soon." He gave no details.

Mr. Ben-Eliezer said the timing of the signing was up to Jordan. "From time to time they only update the draft of the agreement — and don't sign it," he said.

PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat



Shimon Peres

fat said Tuesday that Jordan would sign a "friendly agreement" with Israel within days. In Amman, Information Minister Ma'n Abu Nowar said on Tuesday: "This news is a surprise to us."

Mr. Peres said there were agreements to cooperate in areas such as energy.

"In energy it is clear that if we connect the power grids of Jordan, Egypt and Israel, we could save about \$6 billion to the three countries," Mr. Peres said.

Givens in political/ economic scene point to possible Cabinet reshuffle

By Ayman Al Safadi
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — While it is still unclear whether Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali will retain his position when the newly-elected Parliament convenes no later than Dec. 1, it is certain that a major reshuffle will take place before a vote of confidence on the Cabinet takes place.

Though nothing in the Constitution states that a new government should replace the one that supervised the elections when the new Parliament is called into session, most observers agree that "constitutional norms" require the prime minister in office to submit his resignation to the King, who in turn decides on who should be done.

His Majesty King Hussein has left the door open on whether the government will be changed or not, saying that "the next phase is to form a new Cabinet or make some changes in the present one."

"In regard to the government, no decision has been taken... but it is natural that

we reassess our situation with the beginning of this new era and reorganise ourselves in a way that corresponds with it," King Hussein told reporters Tuesday morning, right after the results of the elections were officially announced.

The King said that the government of Dr. Majali has "fulfilled its duty as a government concerned with the transitional period (and also) fulfilled its duty in regards to the current period and its requirements on the local, Arab and international levels."

The King said that the government of Dr. Majali has "fulfilled its duty as a government concerned with this transitional period (and also) fulfilled its duty in regards to the current period and its requirements on the local, Arab and international levels."

"There might be a change (in the government). These are issues that we will look into later," the King said.

The constitutional norm is that the government should resign when a new Parliament is elected, prominent

lawyer and former Minister of Culture and Information Taher Hikmat told the Jordan Times.

This was the case after the 1989 elections when the government of Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker resigned after supervising the polls and Mudar Badran formed a new government that asked for a vote of confidence from the House.

However, Mr. Hikmat said all indications are that Dr. Majali will form a new government. Other observers agree, citing the composition of the new legislature and the peace process as strong factors favouring a decision to reappoint him as prime minister.

Observers say the new Parliament, which is dominated by centrist, tribal and pro-establishment figures is "one with which Dr. Majali can deal."

The new Parliament is expected to support the executive's foreign policy and the premise of its economic programme. But it is also expected to press the government hard on bread and butter issues that dominated

over political matters during the elections campaign.

Accordingly, Dr. Majali will be able to win a vote of confidence from the House if he is responsive to the new deputies' expected demands for better services to their constituencies and more focus on domestic issues.

The political parties which opposed the government of Dr. Majali before the elections, the first multiparty polls since 1956, will not have enough clout in the new House to form an opposition that could pose a real challenge to Dr. Majali. The Islamic Action Front which fiercely criticised Dr. Majali's performance in the run-up to the elections won only 16 seats, independent Islamists won six and leftist groups which is also expected to oppose Dr. Majali won eight seats.

Observers say the majority of the deputies will give their vote of confidence to Dr. Majali if he pledges to respond to their demands.

"The reasonable performance" of the government of Dr. Majali in conducting the polls will also work to his

favour in the new Parliament, said Mr. Hikmat.

The continuation of the peace process is another factor that observers cite as a reason indicating that Dr. Majali will head the new government.

Dr. Majali has been involved in the peace process since it was launched in Madrid in 1991, first as head of the delegation and later as prime minister. With no changes in Jordan's policy on the peace negotiations and a Parliament that is largely expected to support it, "there is no reason to change Dr. Majali," said Mr. Hikmat.

A well-informed analyst agreed that Dr. Majali will be able to win a vote of confidence from the new legislature but added that he will in return have to adjust his policy statement to facilitate the fulfillment of the demands of the deputies.

The analyst said the deputies were elected by voters who wanted more attention given to their constituents' immediate needs with issues like poverty and unemployment topping the lists of their priorities. The deputies are

expected to press the government to meet these demands.

Most observers agreed, however, that if the King finally decides to designate Dr. Majali as head of a new government, the prime minister will have to introduce new faces to his Cabinet if he wanted to do a good job.

The current government has been described as a Cabinet of technocrats and bureaucrats that does not include many experienced politicians. "The bureaucratic and technocratic character of the current Cabinet should not be dominant in the new one," said one observer.

Observers who spoke to the Jordan Times agreed that a new Cabinet will have to include some experienced politicians who can deal with the political and economic requirements of the new era in the region, especially in as far as the situation in Jordan itself is concerned.

"Politicians who can deal with the coming era should be injected in the cabinet," said Mr. Hikmat.

Observers say the new government should also include

Cabinet member who can strongly reassert the democratic orientation of the country. Critics of the current Cabinet claim that it had started "a process of regression" from the democratic march which started in 1989.

The inclusion of figures whose democratic credentials are obvious to the public and credible in the major political trends in the country will be a factor that could bring back confidence in the executive and ease opposition to a new government formed by Dr. Majali.

The new phase requires a government with strong democratic credentials, said an observer who asked not to be named.

Analysts said Dr. Majali would be expected to include up to 10 members of the deputies-elect who had held ministerial positions in former governments in the new Cabinet if he is designated to form it. That, they said, would inject the government with the experienced politicians it would need and help push the democratic process forward.

Racy row in Kuwait parliament

In discussions that were officially called "frank and candid," the two diplomats clashed on priorities for Somalia with Mr. Christopher concentrating on getting a political process under way and Dr. Ghali stressing security needs after U.S. forces leave on March. 31, the official said.

The legislators called on the interior minister, Sheikh Ahmad Al Humoud Al Sabah, to resign or allow himself to be interpellation by legislators.

The leading opposition parties, namely the Istiqlal (Nationalist), the left-wing

LONDON (AP) — The British Broadcasting Corporation said Tuesday that Libyan authorities are trying to jam its Arabic service because it carried reports of an armed uprising against Moammar Qadhafi. Electronic interference began last Friday on three frequencies and since has expanded in scope and duration, the BBC World Service said in a statement. "The Libyan authorities seem to want to stifle the flow of free information, and the fact that they have singled out the BBC clearly indicates the impact we have inside Libya," said Bob Phillips, the service's managing director. The jamming followed a speech by Colonel Qadhafi on Libyan state television Thursday denying reports — broadcast on the BBC Arabic Service and other international networks — that the Libyan air

LIMASSOL (AP)—A Cypriot diamond dealer seriously wounded in stabbing attack claimed Tuesday the assault was ordered by Israeli competitors. Paula Fargon, 33, and her male companion Mordecai Ben Mayer, 40, were arrested at Larnaca airport last Wednesday as they were about to board a plane for Athens a few hours after the attack against Philokypros Matheou. Both suspects were seen cruising several times in a car past Mr. Matheou's home the day before he was stabbed by a hooded man as he left his office, police prosecutor Yannis Pericleous told a local court Tuesday. The Israeli couple have denied any involvement in the attack. Mr. Matheou, who is recuperating in the Limassol hospital, told reporters that the Israelis wanted to eliminate his competitive threat to what he described as an Israeli diamond cartel. "These are people who want to control the movement of diamonds," said Mr. Matheou, who moved his business from South Africa to his native Limassol last year. "This affected the cartel and they started threatening me," he said. Mr. Matheou also charged that the Israelis were behind the death of his lawyer Sofronis Sofroniou, who had represented him in earlier litigation against the Israeli dealers.

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Gulf war veterans accused the U.S. government Tuesday of refusing to consider whether their life-threatening illnesses were caused by an Iraqi chemical or biological agent attack. About 15 veterans and relatives testified before the House of Representatives Veterans Committee, saying their claims were not being taken seriously. One veteran, Nick Roberts, said that following a January 1991 Scud missile attack, his lips went numb and that he felt burning on his skin and an uncontrollably runny nose. At the time he tested positive for mustard gas, but was told he was tired and under stress and should take an aspirin. Since then, he has been diagnosed with lymphoma and has been given chemotherapy. "I know that something is terribly wrong," he said.

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16:45	Rome (AZ)	Dep. Damascus	7:30 a.m. every Sunday
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(Terminal 1)			
06:50	Beirut (RJ)	Apple	760/800
07:00	Aqaba (RJ)	Banana	680
11:00	Rome (RJ)	Banana (Mukannam)	680
11:05	Athens, Chicago (RJ)	Beans	550 / 350
11:05	Abu Dhabi (RJ)	Cabbage	140 / 90
11:15	Montreal, Toronto (RJ)	Carrot	260/200
11:30	Larnaca, Athens (RJ)	Cauliflower	250 / 180
11:35	Paris (RJ)	Clementine	200 / 100
12:00		Cucumbers (large)	140 / 90
12:05		Cucumbers (small)	300 / 200

Other Flights (Terminal 2)		HUAZ RAILWAY TRAIN	
13:00	Riyadh (SU)	Dep. Amman	8:00 a.m. every Monday
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16:45	Rome (AZ)	Dep. Damascus	7:30 a.m. every Sunday
20:05	Cairo (MS)	Arr. Amman	5:00 p.m. every Sunday
22:05	Istanbul (TK)		
23:15	Amsterdam (KL)		
DEPARTURES		MARKET PRICES	
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights		<i>Uppercase price in file per kg.</i>	
(Terminal 1)			
06:50	Beirut (RJ)	Apple	760/800
07:00	Aqaba (RJ)	Banana	680
11:00	Rome (RJ)	Banana (Mukannam)	680
11:05	Athens, Chicago (RJ)	Beans	550 / 350
11:05	Abu Dhabi (RJ)	Cabbage	140 / 90
11:15	Montreal, Toronto (RJ)	Carrot	260/200
11:30	Larnaca, Athens (RJ)	Cauliflower	250 / 180
11:35	Paris (RJ)	Clementine	200 / 100
12:00		Cucumbers (large)	140 / 90
12:05		Cucumbers (small)	300 / 200

Profiles of newly-elected members of Parliament

AMMAN (J.T.) — Following is a continuation of brief profiles of newly-elected members of the 12th Lower House of Parliament made available to the Jordan Times. A list of 40 deputies elected on Nov. 8 was printed in Wednesday's edition. The rest will appear in Saturday's issue.

* Denotes freshman members.

Dr. Ibrahim Zaid Kellani (IAF)*

Third District, Amman
Born in Salt in 1937, he studied Islamic law in Damascus and then in Baghdad where he obtained a B.A. He received his M.A. and doctorate in Islamic law from Azhar University. He worked for Jordan Radio as director of religious programmes from 1960-1973, then at the University of Jordan teaching at the Sharia College. He became minister of Awqaf and Islamic affairs in the Mudar Badran government of 1991, then returned to the University of Jordan.



Khalil Haddadin (Baath Arabs Socialist Party)*

Third District, Amman
Born in Ma'in south of Madaba in 1939, he was educated in Amman and Damascus. He worked in the contracting business, served as deputy president of the Jordanian Contractors Association and became its president in 1992.



Munir Sobar (Independent)*

Fifth District, Amman
Born in Wadi Seer in 1949, he obtained a B.Sc. in civil engineering from Ankara University in 1973. He worked as an engineer at the Ministry of Public Works from 1973 to 1982. He has a private engineering office in Bayader Wadi Seer.



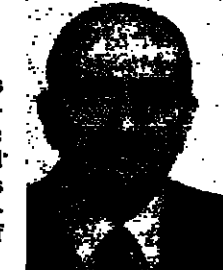
Abdul Majid Al Aqtash (Independent Islamicist)*

Sixth District, Madaba
Born in Dawameh near Hebron on the West Bank in 1945, he studied at Madaba school and obtained a B.A. in Islamic law from the University of Jordan in 1970. He received his M.A. in politics and Islamic economy from Cairo University in 1981, and a doctorate in politics and Islamic economy from Riyadh University in 1986. He worked as a teacher at the Ministry of Education and later at King Saud University in Riyadh until 1993.



Samih Al Farah (Independent)*

Sixth District, Madaba
Born in Madaba in 1962, he received his secondary education at Terra Sancta College. From 1947 to 1950 he worked for the Iraqi Petroleum Company, and later joined the Ministry of Finance for 19 years. He was elected Mayor of Madaba for two consecutive terms (1973-1981). He was a member of the National Consultative Council in 1982.



Dr. Abdul Majid Azzam (Independent)*

Irbid District
Born in Kafur Aan, Irbid, he obtained a B.Sc. from the University of Nevada in 1973. He received an M.A. in political science from California State University in 1981 and his PhD from Claremont University in California in 1983. He worked for Yarmouk University from 1983 to 1993 and became associate professor of political science.



Dr. Ahmad Mufleh Al Qudah (Independent)*

Ajloun District
Born in Ein Janna, Ajloun in 1940, he obtained a B.Sc. in medicine from Istanbul University in 1969. He served in medical posts at the Ministry of Health. He was director of Ajloun Health Department and also worked as director of North Shouneh and Jarash Health Departments.



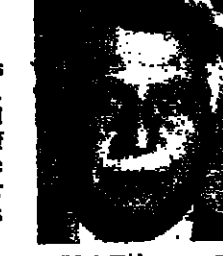
Daifallah Al Momani (IAF)*

Ajloun District
Born in 'Ebbin near Ajloun, studied in 'Ebbin and Sakhrat towns and later at Howara Teachers Training College in 1961. He obtained a B.A. in history from Damascus University in 1967 and a diploma in education from Yarmouk University in 1982. He worked as a teacher for 27 years for the Ministry of Education schools until he retired in 1993.



Farah Rabadi (Independent)*

Ajloun District
Born in Ajloun in 1936, he obtained his B.A. from Damascus University, his M.A. from the American University of Beirut and his doctorate from the Jesuit University of Beirut in 1984. His fields of study were education and psychology. He worked for the Ministry of Education until he was retired recently.



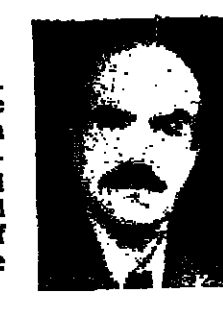
Abdul Hadi Al Majali (Abd Party)*

Karak District
Born in Karak in 1934, he obtained a B.Sc. in civil engineering in 1957 from Baghdad University. He later served as Jordan's ambassador to the United States, then as director general of the Public Security Department (PSD). He joined the Armed Forces, and served in 1979 as Chief of Staff.



Nazih Ammarin (Independent)*

Karak District
Born in Karak in 1943, he obtained a B.Sc. in general surgery from the Royal College of Surgeons in Great Britain in 1977 and a doctorate in medicine from Vienna University in 1969. He served at the Royal Medical Services from 1970-1984 and held several posts including deputy governor of Karak in 1984. He has been in private practice since 1989.



Dr. Hani Hijazin (Independent)

Karak District
Born in Karak in 1934, he obtained a B.Sc. in medicine from Baghdad in 1963 and a diploma in paediatrics from Great Britain in 1964. He was a member of the National Consultative Council in 1982. He has been in private practice in Karak for 28 years.



Crown Prince urges Arab media to help improve inter-Arab relations and Arab nation's image.

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Wednesday urged the media and information services in Arab countries to help improve inter-Arab relations as well as the Arab nation's image.

At a meeting with representatives of Arab news agencies who were in Jordan to cover the Nov. 8 elections, Prince Hassan said the Arab media can encourage the Arab masses to achieve reconciliation among the states of the region and help their leaders adopt policies to safeguard common interests.

Referring to democracy in Jordan, he said that the Jordanian democratic experiment is not intended for export or to be used as a form of pressure on others. Jordan, he added, respects the different policies and choices of the Arab brothers, each according to their own circumstances.

With regard to Monday's general elections, the Crown Prince said that holding the elections on schedule reflects His Majesty King Hussein's reaffirmation of the Jordanian national identity, which is free from any foreign influences or pressures.

The elections were held in an atmosphere of stability, tranquility and optimism about the future and reflected the Jordanian people's determination to respond favourably and positively to King Hussein's call to exercise their right to vote for their representatives in Parliament, said Prince Hassan.

With reference to the refugee problem, he said that one should not focus on the humanitarian point of compensation or return alone, but rather, on a drastic and comprehensive solution. All the refugees' humanitarian, natural and other rights must be respected, added the Crown Prince.

He said the Arab nation has been burdened over the past years by such problems as indebtedness, armaments and oil issues, which, as a result, have restricted its options and denied the Arabs a historic opportunity of dealing with matters according to priorities.

Prince Hassan said that Arab news agencies ought to rely on a solid information network as a reference and help improve the Arab nation's image before the world rather than concentrating on sowing seeds of dissent and suspicion among the Arab states.

He said that Arab states should focus on stimulating regional cooperation and the sound utilisation of oil, human, water and other resources. Unless the Arabs embark on these measures, they could be subjected to regional policies drawn up for them by others, said the Crown Prince.



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Wednesday receives representatives of Arab news agencies at the Royal Court (Petra photo)



Her Majesty Queen Noor Wednesday visits an art class at Amman Academy (Petra photo)

Queen inaugurates Amman Academy on occasion of King's birthday

By Ica Wabbeh
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Her Majesty Queen Noor Wednesday inaugurated the Amman Academy in Khaldiya, as part of the activities held to celebrate His Majesty King Hussein's birthday on Nov. 14.

In the festive atmosphere of a sunny end-of autumn day, the school, whose unofficial opening took place at the beginning of the scholastic year on Aug. 21, was abuzz with children animated by the event and parents even more elated at the thought that their progenies would be performing in front of such an august audience.

The bagpipe band and the school choir backed by a very young orchestra contributed to the gala mood that eager parents were trying to immortalise on film.

Playing "It's a Small World" to receive the Queen, the children, at Her Majesty's request, switched to an Arabic tune.

For the next two hours, Queen Noor toured the school's premises, inquiring about the activities that take place in various departments. The Queen talked to the children, particularly the young-

ger ones, and was "introduced" to the latest addition to the creche, the 7-day-old son of the school's nurse.

The school, spacious, well lit and lively with the colour of the desks, equipment, children's works and curtains, is co-educational till the sixth grade.

This year, it accommodates pupils till the ninth grade, but there are plans to expand the academic performance to Tawjihi or the General Certificate of Education (GCE) in the near future.

President of the school Munther Fahoum explains the reason that drove him to shift from banking to education:

"This is how I want to express myself, leave something behind. Some write books, others paint. I always wanted to build a school, to keep in touch with the people among whom I live and with youth. It is therapeutic, you know?"

The school has a 10:1 ratio of pupils to teachers. It is a high figure that will, probably, not stay the same for long, but the intention to keep strong control over children's performance is made known by Mr. Fahoum, once an educator himself.

The facilities available are impressive. The school has a

library, which "we are still equipping," laboratories, general purpose classrooms, workshops for music, computer, home economics, art, vocational and technical training, a 360-seat theatre, cafeterias and several play yards for different grade students.

The stated "mission" of the school is to "prepare its students for responsible adulthood, to raise them as productive self-motivated individuals capable of making their own decisions."

Queen Noor emphasised the need to train staff to identify children's special needs. She commended the school's efforts at giving each student individual attention, especially the incentives programme which offers reduced tuition fees to gifted students.

If the good start is preserved, no doubt the school will prepare reliable youth in the service of the country.

Accompanied by Her Royal Highness Princess Rania Abdallah and Mrs. Inam Muf- ti, Queen Noor was received by Mr. Fahoum, the Minister of Education and Higher Education Khaled Al Omari, members of the Amman Academy's staff and several distinguished guests.

Mohammad Abu Alim (Independent)

Mafrq District
Born in Mafrq in 1949, he studied at Mafrq and Irbid schools. He graduated with a medical degree from Athens and worked for Al Hussein Medical Centre and later Chicago University. He also worked in Qatar. He was a member of the Royal Commission that prepared the National Charter.



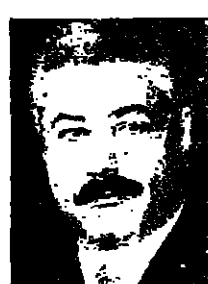
Saleh Shawata (Independent)*

Irbid District
Born in Tihrah near Haifa 1946, he studied at Irbid schools and finished secondary education in 1966. He had training in pharmacy work and worked as an assistant pharmacist from 1967 to 1972. In 1972 he was sentenced to a prison term but was pardoned. He worked in Libya as an assistant pharmacist in 1974. In 1976 he was imprisoned again and was discharged in 1982. Later he studied Arabic at Yarmouk University and was arrested and jailed between 1987 and 1989. He was unemployed until his election to Parliament.



Mohammad Daoudieh (Independent)*

Tafleeh District
Born in H-4 in 1947, he obtained a diploma in English from Amman schools. He worked for the Ministry of Education from 1968 to 1976. He was a columnist at Al Dustour Arabic daily and other papers from 1976 until 1992. In 1992 he was appointed as director of the Information Office at the Royal Court, a post he held for one year.

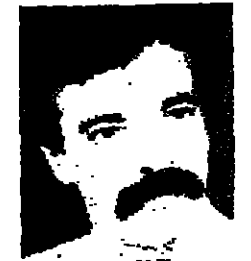


Samir Habashneh (Jordan Arab Democratic Party)*

Karak District
Born in Bethlehem in 1951, he finished school in Amman and obtained his B.A. in agriculture from Baghdad University in 1974. He worked in the agricultural field for the private and public sectors and as a columnist for Al Dustour Arabic daily. He served as adviser to the minister of youth for one year ending in 1993, when he resigned to run for elections. He was a member of the Royal Commission for the National Charter and is a member of the Centre for Freedom, Democracy and Human Rights Studies Constituent Assembly.



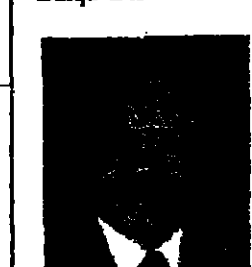
Ali Shatti*
(Independent)
Balqa District



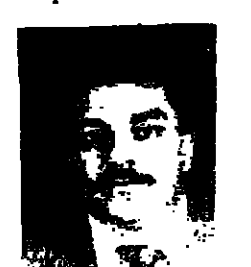
Mustafa Shneikat*
(Leftist)
Balqa District



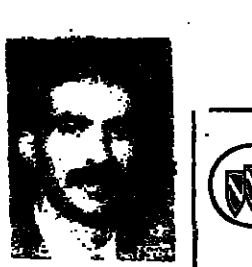
Nader Thuheirat
(Independent)
Kura District



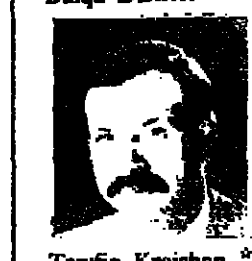
Ibrahim Shihdeh*
(Independent)
Balqa District



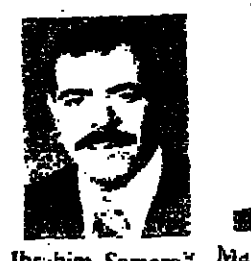
Fawaz Zoubi*
(Independent)
Ramtha District



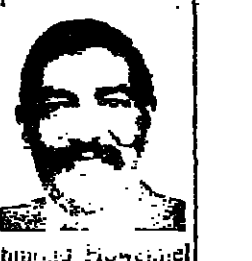
Hatem Ghazaw*
(Independent)
Kura District



Tawfiq Kreishan
(Independent)
Maan District



Ibrahim Samara*
(Independent)
Ramtha District



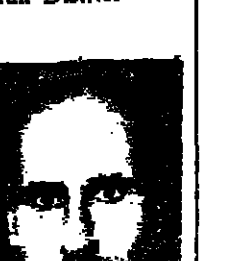
Mahmoed Howasshel
(Independent)
Karak District



Salman Salameh*
(IAF)
Jerash District



Jamal Eshoush*
(Independent)
Karak District



Rateb Al Saoud*
Tafleeh District

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Natural course

ONCE AGAIN His Majesty King Hussein made it crystal clear during his press conference Tuesday that whereas Jordan is totally and unequivocally committed to attain comprehensive peace agreements between Israel and all the concerned Arab parties to the peace process, Amman will not stand still in its efforts to negotiate the remaining issues that still divide Jordan and Israel. It is a well-known fact that all the Arab states are busy negotiating their own respective peace bargains with the Israeli side. Jordan therefore cannot be expected to suspend its endeavours for the same goal as long as the final signature over any peace accord will be put on hold till the remaining Arab negotiating teams arrive at similar results. This is a sensible stance since what Jordan and Israel have agreed upon till now is nothing more than a consensus on the broad outline of their future relationships once peace is achieved between them. Granted the accord struck between the Jordanian and Israeli negotiating teams in Washington is an important development in its own right; but this fact will not detract from the equally valid proposition that there is a great deal that still separates the two sides.

As the Rabin government is hurriedly exploring all avenues for peace with the PLO, Syria and Lebanon, there will come a time when these fronts will register an advanced stage in their negotiations. Unless Jordan moves ahead with its own efforts to resolve all major outstanding conflicts with Israel, the country could very well find itself lagging way back. Still the blueprint for all the future Arab negotiating processes with Israel obviously calls for maximum coordination. Some Arab parties are clearly more advanced than others. This is to be expected, however. The Arab negotiating teams are not holding joint and simultaneous peace talks with the Israeli side. This implies that each Arab side may pursue its own bilateral peace parleys with relative but not absolute freedom from the other Arab-Israeli peace tracks. There is in fact considerable benefit in such a strategy since Israel would be put on notice that crowning of its success on one Arab front cannot be had as long as the other tracks are held in abeyance.

The meeting between Crown Prince Hassan and Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres at the White House last month can be best viewed as part and parcel of the Jordanian negotiating strategy that would put progress in its own track in the service of the other Arab fronts.

It could not have escaped the attention of the world that the Palestinian side is moving rapidly in the direction of removing formidable hurdles in the path of their own mini-accord with Israel. Jordan is on record as having blessed the PLO's own efforts to advance its peace talks with Israel. This position is dictated by the undisputable fact that what the Palestinian side has been able to attain till now with the Israeli side is only the beginning.

Against this backdrop, we in Jordan cannot feel threatened by what the Palestinians have achieved. Likewise, no Arab side may feel threatened by any preliminary progress on the Jordanian-Israeli track. If Damascus registers meaningful progress in its own track in the upcoming weeks or months, Jordan would likewise feel unthreatened as long as the final chapters on all fronts are concluded together.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i daily said Wednesday that the elections held Monday displayed the Jordanian people's orientation towards change of faces in Parliament and new approaches to deal with the country's domestic and external issues. Only 26 of the old parliamentarians have retained their seats, while the number of deputies representing the largest political bloc has been reduced, said Tareq Masarweh. The writer said that perhaps democracy was best manifested in the choice of an Islamist, a socialist and a woman in the Third District of Amman, a choice that reflected the real political pluralism advocated by His Majesty King Hussein during and before the election campaign. Also the success of Toujan Faisal as the first woman to be elected in Parliament was perhaps the best gift democracy had to offer to women so far, continued the writer. He said that women have become a force to be reckoned with in the Jordanian society and the choice of a woman clearly reflects the women's determination to air their grievances at the social and economic levels through the most democratic forum in the Kingdom. King Hussein was the main winner in the elections as he discovered that the Jordanian people did not let him down and have opted for enhancing the march towards democracy, added the writer. He said the election results were perhaps the best gift presented to the King who this month celebrates his birthday.

THE RESULTS of the parliamentary elections came as no surprise to anyone in Jordan except those who fail to see that the fabric of the Jordanian society is mainly tribal and based on the strength of family relations, said Ibrahim Al Absi in Al Ra'i daily Wednesday. Perhaps the one-person, one-vote system has had its effect on the results which showed that only those with strong tribal affiliations have a chance to win, he said. The tribal and family links and considerations on which the Jordanian society hinges has the right to have its say in such an important matter like parliamentary elections, said the writer. The political groupings proved a total failure because they failed to realise the facts about the nature of the society's real social fabric or because these parties have failed so far to come up with integrated programmes with which to convince the electorate of their stand and their political orientations, he pointed out. The political parties, except for the Islamic Action Front, have all failed to reach out to the Jordanian society and act in such a manner as to offer the community real hope in a better Parliament and a brighter future for Jordan, he added. The writer said that these parties should have felt the real economic and social needs of the society and should have pooled their efforts towards meeting these needs.

Two escalating environmental problems in popular residential areas

Dr. Ahmad Y. Majdoubeh

Despite the remarkable efforts, exerted by the various government authorities to improve life conditions in the so-called popular areas in the capital and the other major cities in the Kingdom, such areas are still suffering from several serious environmental problems, some of which are potentially fatal.

To be sure, these areas have improved noticeably over the years. Most of the basic services have been made available to them: virtually all of them have electricity, water, telephone lines, health clinics, sewerage, means of transportation, nurseries, and social development centres. Additionally, they are kept relatively clean. The Municipality of Amman (especially) and similar councils in the other major towns have recruited an army of cleaners sweepers who work around the clock to keep them clean. Indeed, the change in the quality of life in these regions (which comprise eastern, south eastern, and north eastern Amman, as well as substantial portions of Zarqa, Irbid, etc.) has been quite impressive.

Nevertheless, the overall environmental situation in these heavily populated areas is still far from acceptable; in some cases, it is in fact unbearable.

I wish to address two problems which have recently become not only a nuisance but a real threat to psychological and physical health.

The first is the undesirable presence of large vehicles in residential areas. "Large" denotes not only medium-size lorries, trucks and buses, but also huge vehicles of such types as, in addition to trailers, tank trucks of all kinds, bulldozers, etc. by "presence" I mean not just that these vehicles are allowed to roam freely in the popular regions day and night, unlike in the more fortunate and privileged parts of the capital where their movement is immensely restricted, but also that they park freely overnight in the roads and alleys, amidst people's homes. As a

matter of fact, owners/drivers of these vehicles use them too frequently for purposes other than those they are meant for, such as shopping and running errands, making social calls on family and friends, Friday outings, etc. — in short, all privileges of a small private car. Several of my friends refer to them in moments of frustration or humour as the "Jaguars" and "Ferraris" of eastern Amman.

The hazards such vehicles pose are manifold. For one thing, these very heavy vehicles erode and damage our humbly constructed asphalt roads. What they did to the mighty highway linking Amman to the Queen Alia Airport a few years ago is a telling example of the kind of damage such vehicles can inflict. For another, they significantly increase the number of road accidents involving both smaller cars and pedestrians. How many children have these monsters crippled or killed? Unfortunately, many of those driving these vehicles are extremely careless, reckless and rude. Furthermore, these vehicles are not only incredibly noisy but also a major factor in air pollution.

A friend of mine gave me the following scenario to illustrate the latter point. Three gigantic trucks park in the narrow alley across from his window. One driver starts the monster's engine at four a.m., the second at five thirty, and the third at six. Each engine tax-s at least fifteen minutes to warm. "Imagine," he told me, "the impact of the hideous noise on your brain so early in the morning and the amount of polluted air you have to inhale, especially in the summer when it is next to impossible to close the window." Moreover, "how much sleep do you think I get when I have to wake up after each engine starts to close and then open the window?" he added. "I have read in a book," he concluded, "that the fumes coming out of the engines of these trucks are a major cause of brain damage, especially among infants. What

shall I do?"

Perhaps the experts will ponder on the implications of this trauma.

I understand, of course, that the owners/drivers of these vehicles live in popular areas. I understand also that they work hard, harder perhaps than many of us, and come home tired. But it is their health, and that of their families, as much as ours, that is at stake here. We all have to sacrifice a little to make those areas more livable. I honestly do not think that a five-minute walk will do any driver harm at the end of the day. On the contrary, I believe that walking is as healthy for those who stay all day behind the wheel as for those of us who hold sedentary jobs.

Two decisions are required here. The first is to restrict the movement of these vehicles in the residential areas during the day and limit it to official business only, the way it is restricted in the downtown area for instance. The second is to prevent the said vehicles from parking overnight in populated regions. Clearly, collective parking lots within walking distance should be made available.

The second problem, more recent, is sewerage leaks. Unquestionably, The Water Authority did the popular areas (in particular) a great favour when it undertook to create a comprehensive sewerage system. Before that, people (those who had no sense of respect for public space) used to pour dirty water in the roads and alleys, attracting flies in large numbers and spreading germs.

At the beginning, the service was a blessing. Life became easier for people and certainly much healthier. There were leaks from the start, naturally. But all you had to do was dial a number and in a few minutes (this was indeed remarkable) a maintenance team showed up and took care of the problem.

Today, the leakage is not only a lot worse than it used to be, it has become intolerable. Leaks are spotted daily

More importantly, the response of the teams has dramatically slackened. When they are called, and if they are found, very often they take days before showing up. I have personally, in the past two months, witnessed instances in which manholes overflowed and pumped water onto major roads for three to four days. Jokingly, my cynical friends refer to streams of leakage as the Tigris and Euphrates of eastern Amman. (I wish interested parties would visit Jabal Hamian, Jabal Al Nasir, etc., to see for themselves.)

You can well imagine the negative effect of such powerful leaks: they damage roads, pollute the air, increase number of flies, unleash germs and poison children. I have seen children play in this water and vehicles splash it into people's faces.

The cause of the leakage seems to be threefold. First, the pipes are too small and cannot cope with increased usage due to over-population. Second, people in popular areas in particular seem to dump more than water in manholes. A month ago, a maintenance team found a coat in one of the sewers. Third, the Water Authority does have enough maintenance teams.

Obviously, two measures need to be taken urgently: people must be educated about the use of the sewerage system and know that the manholes are not garbage cans and maintenance teams should be made available and should respond promptly.

The two matters I have raised are serious; their hazards are real and cannot be taken lightly. It is our duty to protect citizens in the popular areas from hazards the full implications of which they either do not realise or do but — feel helpless to do anything about.

The writer is an associate professor of American literature in the English Department at Yarmouk University, Irbid. He contributed this article to the Jordan Times.

Ross sees new peacemaking era following Israel-PLO accord

By Berta Gomez

WASHINGTON (USIA) — The agreement signed in September by Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) produced a "fundamental" change in Middle East peacemaking, believes Dennis Ross, the State Department's special coordinator for the region.

"What one saw was... not simply a conceptual breakthrough, but a psychological breakthrough," he said to members of the American Zionist Movement gathered here for Nov. 8 strategy convention.

Psychological breakthroughs broaden the range of possibilities open to negotiators, Mr. Ross told his audience. "You find that the kinds of problems that you simply could not tackle before become problems that you can indeed tackle now," he explained.

Looking to the future, Mr. Ross outlined three basic areas of interest: Implementation of the Israel-PLO agreement; progress on the other bilateral talks between Israel and neighbouring Arab states; and creation of an environment in the Middle East that is conducive to peace-making.

Elaborating on that last point, Mr. Ross suggested that much of the burden lies with Arab governments. Israelis and Palestinians crossed important thresholds to reach agreement with one another, and U.S. officials "would like to see... the Arab states match that with Israel," he said.

He pointed to signs of incipient change, notably the public announcements of meetings between various Israeli and Arab government officials.

But Mr. Ross also reiterated the U.S. belief that the Arab boycott of Israel is anachronistic and inconsistent with peace-making and with Palestinian interests.

During the question-and-answer period, Mr. Ross told the audience that "from a de facto standpoint, (the boycott) is not being carried out." But he stressed the importance of having Arab governments formally abandon the policy. Among other benefits, it would give Israel "confidence

that it truly is a new day" in the Middle East, Mr. Ross said.

Beyond the question of Arab reconciliation with Israel, Mr. Ross called for greater unity among Arabs themselves. "It is also important that the Arab World make clear its support for what the PLO is doing and for what the Jordanians are doing," Mr. Ross said, referring to the agenda for talks initiated by Jordan and Israel.

"It is one thing to talk about Arab reconciliation with Israel. It shouldn't be surprising that there could be some inter-Arab reconciliation that might also be supportive of the broader process," he said.

In his remarks on the implementation of the Israel-PLO accord, Mr. Ross underlined the need for "credible and transparent" Palestinian structures to receive the aid pledged by the international community. Recent meetings between donor groups and Palestinian officials suggest that "we seem to be moving in the right direction," Mr. Ross said.

Commenting briefly on the other bilateral negotiating tracks, Mr. Ross noted the "headway" being made by Israel and Jordan. In addition

to agreeing on a common agenda for talks, Mr. Ross noted that officials from both countries recently participated in an "informal, preliminary" meeting of the new U.S.-Jordan-Israel group that will try to "identify and shape" future cooperation.

The Israel-Jordan track offers "reasons to be hopeful," but Mr. Ross predicted that progress would be made on a "step-by-step" basis.

Israel and Syria still find their talks troubled by questions of territory, peace and security, but U.S. officials see in both governments "a commitment to this process... (and) a commitment to working with us," Mr. Ross reported.

Responding to a questioner who asked about the continued presence of Syrian troops in Lebanon, Mr. Ross also expressed confidence in Syria's commitment to the Taif Accord, which calls for the withdrawal of all foreign forces from Lebanon.

Although he was asked several times about Jerusalem and the Clinton administration's policy regarding the city, Mr. Ross explained that Jerusalem is one of the issues that

will be discussed during the "final status" talks between Israelis and Palestinians. Meanwhile, Washington continues to believe that "Jerusalem should never be divided again... but that it's final status should be resolved by negotiation," Mr. Ross said.

Throughout his appearance, Mr. Ross noted that there are many issues on which the United States does not — and should not — take a stand.

Washington, for example, does not have a position on Palestinian refugees or on the advisability of a Jordanian-Palestinian confederation. It believes that such issues are for the parties themselves to decide, Mr. Ross explained.

Along those lines, Mr. Ross stressed the importance of non-interference from the United States. "We can help, we can clarify, we can reassure, at times we can guarantee," he said. "But the reality is, we can't make decisions for the parties — they have to make them themselves."

One of the more important aspects of the Israeli-Palestinian talks in Oslo that led to the historic accord is that "they made the judgment that it was time to do so."

Going to vote made it impossible to win by default

By G.H. Jansen

AMMAN — The holding of the 1993 general election and its results will have an impact, a resonance and reverberations, far beyond the narrow confines of Jordan, beyond the Arab Middle East and indeed right across the Islamic World and even farther.

Because the event of Nov. 8, 1993, — an historic date — proved that democracy, a free and fair election in a Muslim country where the people are devout, does not have to lead, inescapably, to a Muslim fundamentalist regime. It proved that Islamic fundamentalism can be rebuffed or contained by peaceful means.

In recent years, democracy and fundamentalism, though basically incompatible, seemed to have become firmly intertwined, causally linked: the Jordanian election unlinked them.

Three hundred thousand more people voted in 1993 than in 1989 and because of that, instead of 22 or 23 Muslim Brother representatives in Parliament, there are now 16. And instead of eight or nine or ten "independent" pro-Islamist deputies there are now only three or four or five.

Set against that net reduction in the Islamist presence, it does not matter if the Islamists received the same number of votes as in 1989, or probably even more, because what counted is that this time there were a lot more people ready and willing to go and vote and to vote against the Brotherhood and its allies.

And for a party or movement, a vote against it is as important, or more important, as a vote for it.

So if free and fair elections are going to show what people really think and feel about Islamic fundamentalism — a very different thing from Islamic devotion — voting should be compulsory, as it is in Australia and Cyprus, two really democratic countries. If even only three-quarters of the electorate had voted in Algeria two years ago, the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) would not have swept the board because it won by default. As is often the case.

In Jordan, Islamic fundamentalism did its enemy — democracy — a great favour because it frightened lower middle, middle middle and upper middle class voters into going out to vote (including what are called the "velvet ladies").

But why did the Jordanian voter not vote for the Brotherhood and its allies? Because of the wise and far-

sighted policy of King Hussein who, in effect, put the Brotherhood on display for the citizens of Jordan when, after its success in 1989, he brought its representatives into government in some important ministries. This was a risky gamble because if the Islamist ministers had done a good job then they would by now have been solidly entrenched. But they failed, and so having had the chance to take a good, long, hard look at fundamentalists in power, the Jordan voter, in effect, said: "No, thank you very much."

The Jordanian experience of fundamentalism in power is likely to be repeated elsewhere because The Koran does not claim to have the answers to such modern problems as educated (or semi-educated) unemployment or inflation or global pollution. Hence fundamentalist regimes fall back on Islamic window dressing by insisting on the separation of the sexes in schools and government offices, the banning of alcohol, closing cinemas and women's hairdressers, etc., as in Jordan, Algeria and Afghanistan.

At times, fundamentalism has given the impression of being an irresistible force. But 1993 in Jordan has shown that the devotion and dedication of the Brotherhood's members, the disciplined organisation of the movement and that marvelous slogan "Islam is the solution" are not enough to win seats in a free and fair election.

Jordan has set the example for all Muslim countries where the regime confronts Islamic fundamentalism and has shown that the really effective weapon against the fundamentalists is not the prison cell, or the hangman's noose or the executioner's gun, but the innocent-looking ballot box.

But will its example be followed? Probably not very widely because democracy is a tricky force. For example, the first objective of democracy in Egypt — or Algeria — would be to replace the non-democratic regimes.

So the authoritarian regimes have a choice: choose democracy and perhaps commit political suicide or carry on fighting fundamentalism by violent means which can never bring victory but go down in bloody confusion. Or, as in Jordan, choose democracy well ahead of events.

The writer is a Cyprus-based journalist specialised in Islamic and Middle Eastern affairs. He contributed this article to the Jordan Times.

LETTERS

Who's to blame?

To the Editor:

In reference to Dr. Majdoubeh's article "University education and future citizens — aspirations and fears" (Jordan Times, Oct. 10, 1993), whose basic premises we cannot disagree with, we would like to state, however, the following points regarding students "lukewarm" attitude vis-a-vis basic seminars, clubs and other activities:

Probably the main problem is that these seminars and lectures are highly formal, a thing that gives the students the feeling that they attend just "another lecture."

What we really need is to chat about many serious topics over a cup of coffee that would remove the sense of formality that kills our interest in these lectures and seminars.

A good idea would probably be to ask the students what topics they are interested in. Then the professors would find out that we would like to watch all Shakespeare plays we study at university and all movies based on novels written by famous writers.

Dr. Majdoubeh refers to other activities available at the university.

We would like to ask what kind of clubs are available for us, female students? Not all of us are comfortable joining young men in these clubs.

Dr. Majdoubeh refers to years of depression and neglect by the family and the school as a reason for students' disinterest in the university's activities. His argument, however, could be turned upside down. One would expect students who were deprived in their earlier years to get very much involved in the university activities where they have freedom to act and take part. Yet students do not get involved.

So what is the reason? There is someone to blame, but we do not believe it should be us, students.

Emam Khairuddin, Sura Khreis,
Yarmouk University,
Irbid.

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.

Prison survey finds room for improvement

By a Jordan Times Reporter

AMMAN — In a comparative field study carried out in two prisons in the Kingdom, two Jordanian researchers attempted to show the wide difference in attitude towards and grasping of the notion of crime and committing it, due to differences in treatment and facilities offered at both centres.

The study, compiled in a 175-page book entitled *Prison Community in Jordan*, was conducted by two young, unspecialised researchers, Abdullah Nassir and Hussein Rawashdeh at two prisons both in the north of the country: Kafkafa Rehabilitation Centre and Irbid Prison.

The Irbid Prison, a cold two-storey building, includes a special section for women, a library and a mosque. At the time of the

study, the number of prisoners there was 258: 106 convicted and 152 under arrest. The study does not state the number of women prisoners.

The second prison, Kafkafa Rehabilitation Centre, which the study concentrated on as a relatively modern, better equipped prison with more qualified staff, was built in 1987. The study does not give any information on the nature of the difference between it and Irbid Prison concerning the number of staff and their educational level.

What the study concentrates on is in fact the degree of awareness that prisoners at the Kafkafa Centre have in comparison to their counterparts in the Irbid Prison. Basing their analysis and their research on polls conducted on a number of

prisoners that differs from one prison to another and from one poll to another, the researchers point to the major gap that exists between the two prisons regarding the prisoners' manner of conduct, level of comprehension and attitude towards life and criminal tendencies.

The Irbid Prison is seemingly a traditional and neglected type of prison which lacks basic facilities, decent accommodation and good treatment. Kafkafa Rehabilitation Centre offers prisoners good service, cultural programmes and relatively modern treatment.

Although the number of those who have been questioned in the Irbid Prison is three times smaller than that of their counterparts at Kafkafa Centre, the researchers try to draw the readers' attention to the reform

programmes that can be carried out inside the Irbid Prison and that can influence the prisoners' behaviour, pointing out that some of these programmes are already being implemented in Kafkafa Centre and are bearing fruit.

In one of the polls conducted on 35 prisoners in the Irbid Prison and on 96 prisoners in the Kafkafa Centre, the researchers found out that only six per cent of those questioned in the Irbid Prison would complain to the director if one of the prison's staff mistreated them while 74 per cent of those questioned in the Kafkafa Centre said they would definitely report the incident to the director.

Commenting on this result, the researchers note that the different attitude that Kafkafa prisoners adopt to solve their prob-

lems with the prison administration is linked to the "positive" treatment by officials at the centre as opposed to that at Irbid Prison. The researchers support their argument by pointing to the results of another poll that questioned prisoners on the reasons behind their silence on aggressive attitudes or mistreatment by officials.

The poll showed that 75 per cent at the Irbid Prison feel that no one would pay attention to their complaints in comparison to only 20 per cent at Kafkafa Rehabilitation Centre. Another poll also showed that 57 per cent of prisoners at Kafkafa Centre believe that the prison's administrator is likely to punish staff secretly if prisoners complained while 17 per cent at Irbid Centre had this belief.

In another poll that questioned the prisoners' level of knowledge of prison regulations, 66 per cent (36) at Irbid prison said they were not aware of these instructions as opposed to Kafkafa prison where 61.8 per cent (97) said they had previous knowledge.

Prison Community In Jordan which consists of four parts: Irbid Prison, Kafkafa Centre, comparative analysis between the two centres and recommendations, concludes by calling on officials and concerned authorities to pay more attention to prisoners' needs and to educational training; to adopt rehabilitation programmes and to rank prisoners according to their crimes.

The researchers also call for an increase of religious lectures and conferences that "constitute one of the basic elements to the rehabilitation and refinement of the individual."



Damascus Film Festival takes a new, qualitative step forward

By Mohammad Masharga

Damascus Film Festival this year was held at Al Sham Hotel, in the centre of the Syrian capital.

The hotel bills were therefore filled with critics, film directors, actors, a large number of intellectuals as well as journalists.

This year's festival was not a unique cultural event as was hoped, leading Egyptian film producers presented a mediocre assortment of works.

An Egyptian film director approached me and said: "This is a great film indeed, you have to see it." He was talking about an Egyptian movie entitled *Three On The Road*. One you see the film you realise you have been cheated.

The multitude of journalists had their eyes fixed not on the film presented but rather on a bespectacled woman who turned out to be the famous Egyptian actress Najlaa Obeid signing photos for admirers.

A journalist asked her: "What about the normalisation of cultural relations with the Zionist enemy?" "This is rather a difficult question to answer," the famous actress said laughingly.

The Egyptians presented three films: *Land Of Dreams*, *America Shika Bika*, and *Three On The Road*. All three had earlier been shown at Cairo and other



A scene from the Japanese film *Aso's Passion*

international film festivals.

The Syrians presented a number of films that include *The Half Metre Incident* and *The Events Of The Coming Year*. They were good films. The festival offered the Syrians a good opportunity to present their artistic work to an Arab and foreign audience. The movies were part of a new generation of Syrian films.

According to Syrian director Samir Thikra, Syrian movies are totally different from the themes of the Egyptian movies which are normally traditional and melodramatic.

In the view of Fadel Rabi'i, a Syrian film critic, Syrian movies provide very small details of events. They resemble to a large extent Moroccan movies in that they depend largely on what the camera reveal more than on words and dialogues.

The mood of the festival and attendants changed following the screening of two Tunisian films, *The City Sultan* and *The Beach Of The Lost Children* — both directed by Al Jilani Farhati.

According to one Lebanese critic there was nothing new in this year's festival except the fresh ideas presented in North African film.

Another critic saw in the North African films a complete departure from traditional Arab movies. Two Tunisian directors, Nouri Bouzeid and Othieb presented movies that feature North African inner cities.

One Moroccan producer presented a movie that featured details of rural life in Morocco.

This film was discussed after the screening. Critics

and journalists at the round-table debate focused attention on the film's dialect, with some insisting that classical Arabic should be used to overcome the problem of Arabic dialects not known in other parts of the Arab World.

Directors disagreed. They said that the scenes in the film are more important than the dialogue as a scene can have more impressive expression than speech.

The question of dialects was not the only topic for the directors and the critics of the festival.

Tunisian and Moroccan film directors came under attack by critics who accused them of hanging out Arab dirty linen for foreign audiences. It is for this reason, they charged that these films win awards in the West.

The directors defended themselves by saying that they were presenting the truth without any attempt to cover up the realities and the facts and without any feeling of shame.

One of them said: "When you move the cameras it is almost impossible to conceal the truth from the eyes of the world. Ours is an Arab society holding on to traditions, but one which is disintegrating and the time has come for the cinema to expose the truth to the world."

The film festival included a show of six Indian films.

Critics in a subsequent seminar discussed the events of these movies with their directors, who said they



The opening ceremony of the Damascus Film Festival

sought to present to the world the real situation in India where poverty and misery prevail. These films, they said, depict the real life of the poor.

I myself realised the facts about these movies when I watched the *Music Chamber*, a film that demonstrated the influence of music on the human soul.

More films from the Arab World and Latin America, were scheduled, but, according to a Syrian director, the festival's financial means this year were limited and accordingly a limited number of foreign movies were screened.

One of the foreign movies entitled *Aso's Passions* came from Japan. This movie, considered unique by many critics, depicted the various natural sceneries of Japan serving as background for a simple tale which focuses on traditional religious rites. These rites are sought to help the local communities to rid themselves of social and psychological complexities.

Despite the numerous loopholes in the organisation of the festival, one can claim that the eighth film festival in Damascus presented a major opportunity for the audience to witness a new and qualitative step forward achieved by the film industry in Syria and the North African Arab states.

The festival was also an opportunity for the audience to scrutinise the traditional Arab film industry as well as those of Japan and other foreign countries.



The Cuban entry at the Damascus Film Festival



Syrian actress May Skaf in a scene from one of the Syrian entries in the film festival

Few facets of French life escape pollsters' scrutiny

By Elaine Ganley
The Associated Press

PARIS — Did you know that more French men than women dunk bread in their morning coffee? And that most of them are die-hard dunkers, unabashedly doing it in public?

Do you care? Maybe not. But judging from the number of polls on almost every quirk of gallic life, the French do, so much so that this nation has become a pollsters' paradise.

Nearly 1,000 national polls are published each year in France, or about three a day — the highest rate in the world, French polling experts assert. That's just the tip of the iceberg, since even more polls are commissioned by private organisations that keep the results confidential.

Six leading poll firms, out of a dozen in all, do most of the opinion sampling on topics ranging from politics to romantic preferences to spelling.

Polls represent "collective introspection particular to France," said Marie Antoine-Paille of Sondo-

scope, which compiles and analyses polls conducted here and abroad.

"You can call it narcissism. It's like a family that sends its time writing to each other to see how they're all feeling."

The French feel polite, according to a July poll that found 95 per cent of them consider courtesy — at least a "thank you" — important.

Only 30 per cent favour creating a holiday for pets, another poll concluded.

Still another found that 67 per cent of French men, compared with 58 per cent of women, dunk their buttered "tartine" in their morning coffee, and 62 per cent refuse to forego the habit in public places.

Polls are serious business in France for polling firms, which charge an average \$1,785 a question — for the media, which commissions most published polls — and for politicians, who tailor their public lives to poll results.

Jerome Sainte-Marie, an analyst with the Louis Harris Firm in France, says the stature of polls is a symptom of the decline of ideology in France, where people are turning away from traditional political parties and institutions.

"We have replaced the debate of ideas with introspection of the society itself," Mr. Sainte-Marie said. "When organisations and ideologies no longer play their roles, there is a sort of frenetic analysis."

The first modern-style opinion poll was conducted in the United States in the early 1900s. But 16th century Italian philosopher Machiavelli has been deemed the patron saint of pollsters for linking power to insight into the public's wishes.

France's first poll was conducted in 1938, but the practice only gained credence during the 1965 presidential election. The night before the vote, a poll accurately, and surprisingly, predicted that Gen. Charles De Gaulle would be forced into a second-round vote against upstart Socialist Francois Mitterrand.

Mr. Mitterrand lost to Gen. De Gaulle, but is now in the 12th year of a presidency that has fluctuated

wildly in opinion surveys.

As the polling business blossomed, it has attracted a bevy of well-schooled political scientists who give the profession more prestige in France than many other countries.

Still, there are doubters. One prominent critic, sociologist Patrick Champagne, considers polls a waste of time and money.

Polls put France "in a permanent referendum on everything and nothing," he said.

The polls destabilise those who should be running the country, divert their energies into maintaining a high approval rating and represent an "enormous financial waste," he said in his book *Making Opinion*.

Mr. Champagne also blames the media for working hand-in-hand with polling institutes in an expensive race for scoops.

The average poll costs \$9,000 to \$17,850, according to Sondoscope's Antoine-Paille. But she says it's money well spent.

Chinese herbs get new look after record-breaking races

By Tan Ee Lyn
Reuters

SINGAPORE — Traditional Chinese herbal medicines are gaining fresh attention — and new, younger users — after two of China's women runners credited their record-breaking performances partly to a worm fungus and to the ancient root Ginseng.

Their astonishing feats in September at China's national games in Beijing sparked allegations that Wang Junxia and Qu Yunxia had used banned drugs.

But subsequent doping tests proved negative. On Oct. 29, the official Xinhua News Agency reported from Beijing that the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) ratified the two women's records for the 10,000, 3,000 and 1,500 metres races.

The athletes and their coach partly attributed their success to the herbs Cordyceps and Ginseng — both steeped in folklore and mystery even to many Chinese.

Cordyceps, known in Chinese as "the winter worm and summer grass" in direct translation, is derived

from worms in western China in the regions of Sichuan, Tibet and Qinghai. It is also cultivated in Hong Kong and the Cameron Highlands in Malaysia.

While in winter hibernation, the worm is invaded by a parasitical fungus which eats its way through the worm's body.

The hollowed-out worm then starts sprouting shoots in spring and is harvested in summer, explained Richard Eu, managing director of Eu Yan Sang Holdings Ltd, a well-known retailer of Chinese herbs and medicines in Singapore and Malaysia.

Apart from countering fatigue and boosting endurance in athletes, Cordyceps is believed to strengthen the kidneys and help cure impotence "as impotence is due to problems with the kidneys," said Lim Chong Hung, a manager with Eu Yan Sang.

Cordyceps had been retailing at \$35 per 37.5 grams (1.3 ounces), about five doses, but prices soared to \$39.50 after the two Chinese runners toppled world records, Lim said.

Wild Chinese Ginseng, grown mainly in the far northeastern province of Jilin, takes several decades to grow its average length of 40 to 45 cm (16 to 18 inches).

Priced at \$3,822 for every 37.5 grams (1.3 ounces), it is often touted as the most expensive and superior Ginseng in the world.

"Even based on Russian research, it's a stimulant to the brain... if something's not balanced (in the body), the central nervous system will try to balance it and the Ginseng helps to stimulate that," Lim said.

"If you have a heart problem, instead of curing the heart, you go to the brain, and the brain will regulate the whole body to a balance, and that ties up with what the Chinese believe. It's a Yin and Yang balance," he explained.

American Ginseng — shorter, bulkier and believed to relieve mental stress and enrich "Qi" or vital energies — is cheaper, at \$60.50-\$223 per 37.5 grams.

Cultivated Korean Ginseng, believed to improve

blood circulation and reduce fatigue, costs slightly over \$64 per 37.5 grams.

Newspaper advertisements touting their use by athletes are now appearing in Singapore, where the herbs were already finding more acceptance among Chinese ever in Westernised generations.

"In the past (our clientele) mostly were people from age 40 and above, typical housewives who come in and shop... but now (young) professionals like lawyers, accountants bringing handbags... come, asking for quite common types of herbs, Ginseng," Eu's Lim said.

"There is definitely foundation in Chinese medicine as it stretches so far back," said 27-year-old oil trader Hans Wong. He takes Chinese medicine to treat coughs and colds.

To cater to today's hurried lifestyle, herbs like Ginseng, Cordyceps and Tian-Qi, which would normally have to be prepared over a slow fire for hours, are now ground into powder and even inserted into capsules.

Apples with Oranges, reviewed

By Jean-Claude Elias

When the personal computer (PC) revolution started more than ten years ago, two industry standards emerged, the so-called IBM compatible and the Apple Macintosh. One radically different from the other, they outclassed other weaker operating systems and they remain, to date, the only acceptable ones.

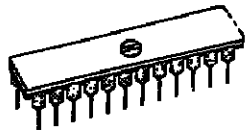
While the Apple approach is based on user-friendly interfaces and procedures, the IBM compatible claim a more versatile architecture, a larger software library and last but not least, a less expensive product.

With time however, the designers of both systems acknowledged each other's advantages while admitting some of their own weaknesses. For instance, one specific Apple product was immediately adopted by both parties — the now famous, ubiquitous, unavoidable mouse.

From 1990 to this year, the IBM and the Mac worlds have constantly been reducing the gap separating them. The latter now allows its users to run important IBM software while the former, with the well known Windows programme makes using an IBM-compatible as friendly as a Macintosh.

To confirm that the two systems are converging, reputable software houses that used to write programmes for the Mac or for the IBM, now tend to release,

chip talk



simultaneously, two different version of their important software, one for each system. This phenomenon is very clearly seen in multi-media applications (computer based production of music, audio and video), where independent companies systematically develop two versions of their work.

Some manufacturers of additional, optional hardware now design their products with both the IBM and the Mac in mind. PLI (Peripheral Land Incorporated), an American company, makes external hard disks that can be used indifferently on the Mac or the IBM.

One of the latest argument in favour of PCs democracy (yes, its the tendency even in the computer world) is the recent introduction of an inexpensive, add-on electronic board that plugs in an IBM-compatible bus and allows its user to run all Mac software, according to its manufacturer. Even if this claim is confirmed, it could not allow the IBM user to connect to other Mac hardware. It does however constitute another landmark on the road to union.

The latest rumours in the computer circles are about a machine to be released very soon and that would, intrinsically, be a Mac and an IBM at the same time. Paradise on earth in other words. Wait and see.

Experienced users and technical people alike have learnt to be careful or skeptical should we say, when it comes to things like 100 per cent compatibility or machines that do everything perfectly well.

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

By Mohammad A. Shuqair

TIME FOR RIB-TICKLING READING

THE BIRTHDAZE

(THE BIRTHDAZE is a woman who gives you a certain date for her age and then leaves you stupefied by her claim.)

- ★ She was born in the year God only knows when.
- ★ No more candles for her on her birthday cake. On her last birthday the candles looked like a prairie.
- ★ Her youth has changed from the present tense to pretence.
- ★ She claims she's reached 40, it's like launching a rocket — she's started her countdown.
- ★ You can tell her age like you do a used car's. The paint job may conceal the age, but the lines show the years.
- ★ The only thing she'll admit about her age is that she's pushing 40. She's not pushing it — she's dragging it.
- ★ She is not lying when she claims she just turned 23 — she's 32.
- ★ She knew Madame Butterfly when she was a caterpillar.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

HAVE YOU A MOLE?

Many people do not like these little marks, but let them be comforted, for in the old days, according to the wise men of the day, great reliance was placed on them. Just what a mole means depends on where it is to be found.

The following may describe a mole of your own:
RIGHT EYE (above): Wealth and a happy marriage.
LEFT EYE (above): You have a great liking for the opposite sex and you will gain much happiness.

TEMPLE: As above.
NOSE: You will succeed in business.
CHEEK: You will be happy, but not blessed with fame and fortune.

CHIN: Fortune in your choice of friends.
EAR (either): A contented nature.
ARMS: — A happy nature, but with something of the "don't care" spirit.

SHOULDERS: Will face difficulties with fortitude.
HANDS: A practical nature. Able to take care of yourself.

LEGS: Strong willed.
NECK: You have a great deal of patience.

HUMOUR

★ The quarrel between wife and husband escalated. HUSBAND: "I'm no longer able to put up with this sort of life. I'll show you the last of me. I'm going to the dogs."

Soon he left the house, and then came back to say: "You're lucky, darling. It's raining outside!"

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

★ The wife asked her husband to buy her a new fur for the New Year.

HUSBAND: But yours is new, my dear. It's only one year old.

WIFE: Don't you know that the fox had been using it 10 years before!

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

★ HUSBAND: Five hundred dinars is too much a fee for a plastic surgery, doctor. Can't you make it less?

DOCTOR: (Jokingly) Maybe, sir, if you divorce her and marry another one.

YOUR DREAMS INTERPRETED

IRON: A profitable bargain: (red-hot) sorrows: (burnt with same) dreamer will receive some personal injury.

ISLAND: For a woman to dream of an island forebodes desertion by husband or lover.

ITCH: A sign of good luck.

IVORY: To dream of anything made of ivory is a sign that the dreamer will suffer from fraud and deception.

IVY: True friends will present themselves.

COOKING IS FUN

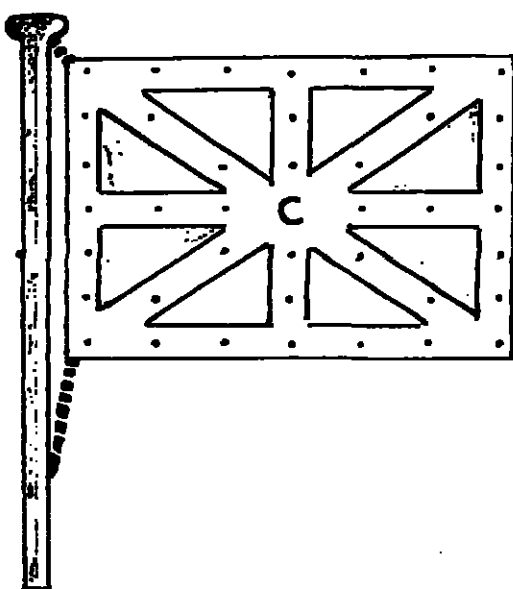
Arabian Nights Icing

3 tablespoons soft butter, unsalted
12 oz. sifted icing sugar.
1 large egg yolk.
1½ tablespoons very strong hot coffee.
1 tablespoon single cream.
½ tablespoon cocoa
Cream the butter and add egg yolk, beat for 2 minutes with a fork. Add sugar and cocoa very gradually (the cocoa should have been sifted with the sugar) and mix in the hot coffee. Add the cream and beat with a fork to a smooth spreading consistency.

PUZZLES

JACK-POT

Here is a somewhat arbitrary drawing of the British flag, the Union Jack.



You are asked to place therein eight words, each of seven letters — three across, three down and two diagonally — to fit the clues given below.

These clues have been set down in a haphazard order, so that it is up to you to sort them out. To help you, we have put in the centre letter, "C", which is common to one word across, one word down, and both diagonals.

Words across read, of course, from left to right, those down read from top to bottom, while the two diagonals read from left to right. Each dot in the diagram represents a letter.

Here are the clues:

STRAITS
MODEL
FLOW GENTLY
NIPS
OMEN
ECCOME DENSE
TUTOR
MENACES

Mrs. Gloom Buster

By E. Yaghi

Princess Pochahontas sat feeling quite forlorn in a field of red poppies near her village. She picked some wild flowers and strung them into a necklace and then stuck a lavender in her black flowing hair. It was not enough that Gloom Buster ceased to spread his seasonal joy everywhere, but his wife, Mrs. Gloom Buster, who was Pochahontas' dearest friend, had gone on a trip with her husband leaving a path of loneliness behind her.

The princess spoke to the wild rabbits of the forest, to the squirrels and to the meadow larks of the butternut trees as they listened attentively. "I never knew before how much I miss Mrs. Gloom Buster. She's always been there whenever I needed her and now she doesn't even send me a smoke signal every now and then because she's gone to visit the ancient city of El Dorado and won't be back for ever so long!"

And thus she sat and contemplated the worth of Mrs. Gloom Buster. Pochahontas had it figured out that she was more or less like Mrs. Santa Claus. She was the silent force behind that spreader of happiness, Mr. Gloom Buster and while he was out shooting away gloom and sadness with his trusty arrows, the Mrs. Gloom Buster, polished his bow and arrows, painted red and green decorations on his tepee, and sewed him the fittest, finest moccasins in all the village. She also made the best berry jelly there ever was and no one cooked over an open fire better than she did. In short, she was the perfect wife for just being present in Gloom Buster's wigwam inspired him to seek out gloom and destroy it wherever it occurred. She was the encouraging force behind the jolly man for as Pochahontas and all other women of her tribe knew, behind every great man there was a great woman too. So much for women's lib, the princess thought. But how could she ever express all the love, admiration and appreciation she felt in the friendship of Mrs. Gloom Buster? What could she ever say or do to demonstrate her feelings? Should she write poems to her friend with the quill of a wild dove engraved on a piece of dried deer skin and send it with a messenger to the tepee of her adored pal? What would suffice to explain her feelings of adoration adequately enough in a declaration of fondness?

Now, Pochahontas was the daughter of Chief Powhatan and the helpmate of Captain John Smith. It was through her efforts that peace had been maintained between the English colonists and native Americans by befriending the settlers of Jamestown, Virginia.

One day when her father reacted to undignified

treatment by the settlers, he captured the founder and leader of the Chesapeake Bay colony, Captain Smith and placed his head on a sacrificial stone to await death. The then young Indian maiden, Pochahontas, flung herself down near the Captain's head and threatened: "If you kill him, you must slay me first!"

Needless to say, her father, a wise man, spared the life of the captain and lay even conceded his daughter in marriage to one of the members of the new colony. But, Pochahontas reflected as she dreamily gazed down at her peaceful village, her courage and spirit had been inspired by Mrs. Gloom Buster. Many a time, she had been frustrated in her dealings as a peace maker between the settlers and the Indians but she quickly sent smoke signals to her friend and acting upon her advice, devised plans to promote tranquillity. But now, here she was, abandoned by her dearest friend. The sky was blue but Pochahontas saw it gray. Her forest animal friends scampered about in the field far her, and birds sang in the butternut trees but Pochahontas heard only a melancholy tune and neglected her animal playmates. And even the red poppies looked a dull brown. She threw her flower necklace on the ground and pouted.

"Oh, when is my treasured friend coming home?" she queried as she listened to the wind in the distance which bowed the tops of the majestic trees and rustled their leaves. "I feel so lonely without her. What will I ever do when she leaves for good? Her presence soothes like healing herbs and knowing her like waving a magic wand over problems and making them disappear or at least not seem so enormous."

She put her hands around her mouth as if to whistle and called to the spirits of the unknown: "Oh, where are you my noble friend and when will you return to me at least for a little while, for you build up my courage and give me hope to try once again. Come back to me wherever you are for I will always need you and forever love you. And don't forget our village needs Gloom Buster too, for he wipes away tears and helps the forsaken see the sun again. Enough replenishing his energy and rejuvenating your talents. My village and I need you both and so do the settlers. Please come back!"

And there to this day, (sometimes in the field with the squirrels rabbits and meadow larks, or then it rains, inside her tent, contemplating smoke signals), she sits faithfully waiting for the return of Mr. and Mrs. Gloom Buster. But her patience will not be in vain for she has learned that a true friend is more precious than gold and that one of the greatest gifts that one human being can give another is of him or herself.

JTV CHANNEL 2 WEEKLY PREVIEW

Thursday, Nov. 11

8:30 Coach

About Face

Christine seeks employment as a TV news caster but in vain. She is rejected because of her age. Would a facial operation help her get a job?

9:10 Reasonable Doubts

Try To Be Nice, Where Does It Get You?

Tessa seeks the indictment of an old woman accused of avenging the killing of her daughter and the maiming of her grandson.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Movie Of The Week — The Secret

Starring: Kirk Douglas, Laura Harrington and Bruce Boxleitner

Kirk Douglas is the grandfather who must make a choice between the future of his nine-year-old grandson and his own political future. Both share a secret whose revelation can destroy the family.

Friday, Nov. 12

8:30 Just The Job

Documentary — The Helicopter Pilot

Many kids dream of becoming air pilots. This documentary shows how to become one.

9:10 E.N.G.

Intruders

An old man becomes a Channel 10 hero for saving a woman from being mugged...but Channel 10 is surprised to find that the old man served 30 years in prison for murdering four

children!

10:00 News In English

10:20 Blackheath Poisoning

The old lady is also poisoned to death...and the police find evidence that implicates Isabelle in the killing.

11:15 Yes Minister

Big Brother

The media attacks the civil service minister for establishing a computer system that gathers information about the civil servants — an intrusion into the private lives of the citizens.

Saturday, Nov. 13

8:30 The Fanelli Boys

Poetic Justice

Women will remain Frankie's top priority in life even after he joins the university.

9:00 Da Beat's On

9:30 Perspective

10:00 News In English

10:20 Feature Film — The Jigsaw Man

Starring: Michael Caine, Susan George and Lawrence Olivier

A British agent is hired by Russia's KGB and is sent to London as the commercial attaché in the Russian embassy. His mission: To retrieve files on ex-Russian agents. His price: One million Swiss francs.

Sunday, Nov. 14

8:30 You Bet Your Life

A weekly game show with presenter commedienne Bill Cosby.

9:10 ThirtySomething

Photo Opportunity

This week Melissa is to go to New York to photograph a famous writer — a task that proves difficult considering what happens to her mother.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Legacy — The Barbarian West

This is our journey through the history of the Western civilisation. From ancient Athens and Imperial Rome we travel to World War I battlefields of France.

11:15 The Golden Palace

Camp Town Races

Roland, the black receptionist gets furious when he is told that the hotel will host a conference by conservative women from the south.

Monday, Nov. 15

8:30 Delta

Delta and her boss agree to take part in an auction, held for Save The Children.

9:10 The House Of Eliott

In the possession of their rightful inheritance, the sisters establish their own fashion house, which they call The House Of Eliott, and concentrate on building up their clientele. Sebastian reappears.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Chancer

Fall

Ruthless industrialist Tom Franklyn threatens to close the gambling club unless Dex accepts his offer of a new job and Dex's son becomes part of the deal.

Tuesday, Nov. 16

8:30 Night Court

Baby Talk

The news falls on Mack, the court clerk, like a ball of fire: He will become a father soon.

9:10 Brand New Life

Above And Beyond Therapy

The Rogers family has been chosen to appear in a TV programme to show how both members of second marriages solve their problems.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Queen Christina

Starring: Greta Garbo and John Gilbert

Queen Christina becomes queen of Sweden following the death of her father. Her rule over Europe runs peacefully until she gets entangled with problems created by the royal court in Spain.

Wednesday, Nov. 17

8:30 Head Of The Class

Crimes Of The Heart

9:10 Documentary — Growing Up

Twelve children are selected from different countries to see how effective the Earth Summit Resolutions has been.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Contract For Murder

Starring: Cybill Shepherd and Ken Olin

This is a true story of a doctor who is accused of murdering his ex-wife, and so is he. However, the real murderer appears to be someone much more closer to the victim.

Handwritten signature or mark.

Sommersby — a lush romantic film

FILM REVIEW

Richard Gere — Jack Sommersby
Jodie Foster — Laurel Sommersby
Bill Pullman — Orin
Director: Jon Amiel
Story: Nicholas Meyer and Antony Shaffer
Screenplay: Nicholas Meyer and Sarah Kernochan
Director of photography: Philippe Rousselot
Producers: Arnon Milchan and Steven Routh
6 Studio Canal-Regency Enterprise
Alicor Films 1993

Who was this man who returned to Vine Hill, Tennessee, after the American Civil War? Had the abusive, gambling plantation owner evolved into a stronger, gentler and fairer gentleman during his six year absence?

These changes were overlooked by the people at Vine Hill who recognised him as Jack Sommersby. To them Jack had returned and was improving their well-being by converting his unproductive cotton plantation into a thriving tobacco plantation. In addition he offered each member of the community, both black and white, the option to buy the land they worked on.

Only Orin, who had fallen in love with Laurel during her husband's absence, questioned Jack's identity. He confronted Laurel after her dog who did not recognise Jack was killed, three drifters were accosted by Jack when they threatened to reveal his identity and when Jack did not recall his best friend.

But Laurel turned a deaf ear despite her own nagging doubts. She blossomed in her tender and playful relationship with her husband. Nothing seemed important to her other than to have this new Jack back... until a warrant for Jack Sommersby's arrest was issued for the murder of Charlie Goglan.

If this man was truly Jack Sommersby then he would be hanged. If he was not then the land contracts he

signed were invalid, his children illegitimate and his wife a sinner.

Sommersby is a lush romantic movie, well developed for 1993 movies in terms of characterisation, relationships, storyline and theme. Some of the wonderful scenery captured by the director of photography, Philippe Rousselot, gave a slight epic-like feeling to the movie. However, Sommersby is not a gone with the wind. The director, Jon Amiel, did not create an epic to be referred to in future generations as a classic.

Although Laurel's role was that of a strong woman, she did not embody loveable characteristics other than a delightful half laugh, half smile. The stands she took were admirable, but many times lacked real emotion. I do believe this was largely due to the jarring quality in Jodie Foster's voice. She has a basically monotone voice which fits other strong woman roles she has played, such as in *Silence Of The Lambs* and *The Accused*, but may be inappropriate for a romantic role. Similarly, the hardness of her voice took away from the gentleness in the romance that was budding between her and her

husband.

However, the loving relationship between Laurel and Jack was clearly developed. The tension between them was played out well-so well that their relationship became a metaphor for the mystery of marriage. No longer was it important whether this man was actually Jack Sommersby as it was whether he was Laurel's husband. Richard Gere's winning performance as the mystery man moved the storyline and theme without a hitch.

The story backdrop was the post-Civil War era. However, Amiel's contribution to the setting were a few scenes showing some devastation. He also addressed the directly the black and white tensions in several scenes, without making the black man's plight — which was one of the most important aspects of the post-Civil War era — an integral part of the movie.

All in all any lover of romance will appreciate this movie. Just make sure a box of tissues is nearby.

By Najwa Najjar-Kort

Capitalism seen as disaster for Czech film industry

By Jeremy Smith
 Reuter

PRAGUE — The collapse of communism, which many hoped would herald a new era of artistic freedom, has meant disaster for the Czech film industry and unemployment for hundreds of its workers.

While the strict ideological requirements of the Communist censor vanished after Czechoslovakia's "velvet revolution" in 1989, so did comfortable state subsidies and protectionist laws for the country's film studios.

The most famous of them are the Barrandov Studios, whose production in the Communist period included world-acclaimed films such as Jiri Menzel's Oscar-winning *Closely Observed Trains* and Milos Forman's

Firemen's Ball.

Barrandov used to turn out more than 20 heavily-subsidised domestic feature films a year. It was sold in June 1992 to private owners and now produces between three and five Czech films a year.

Many Czechs active in the film industry see the transition to private enterprise as a disaster.

Said Jan Jira of Lucerna-film, the Czech Republic's main film distribution company: "I belong to a generation which wasn't brought up to capitalism."

"It's like having spent your whole life playing ping-pong in the district championship and then being plunged into a professional tennis tournament."

Film makers and studios are finding it hard to come to grips with the reality of

free market forces and the famous Barrandov Studios, built in 1931 and generally considered the cradle of Czech film, were no exception.

In 1990 the government, then led by President Václav Havel, gave the immediate go-ahead for privatisation of the virtually bankrupt Barrandov Studios as the only way to maintain the site as a working production centre.

The studios, among the largest in Europe, were bought in a deal worth around \$20 million by a private consortium of 26 investors led by a young studio chief, Václav Marhoul.

One of Marhoul's first moves on taking charge was to lay off two-thirds of Barrandov's employees to create a "more market-oriented enterprise."

Ironically, Milos Forman, who fled Czechoslovakia after the Soviet-led invasion of his country in 1968, is honorary chairman of the consortium.

His erstwhile colleagues from Barrandov's golden days in the 1960s, directors Vera Chytilova and Jiri Krejčík, are so outraged by the privatisation of the studio that they have launched a campaign to return them to the umbrella of the state.

Chytilova and Krejčík marshalled the forces of the Film and Television Union (FTES) to protest against what they see as a violation of a 1945 decree on state media monopolies.

FTES members have described the government decision to privatise as "incompetent", and say the state should protect the Czech film industry by

donating money and land.

The most dramatic confrontation between FTES and Marhoul came in an October television debate on Marhoul's plan to tear down Barrandov's film processing laboratories and rebuild them with new, more efficient technology.

"The film laboratories are to be pulled down," Krejčík, 75, spluttered in the debate. "And I declare here and now that if it comes to that, I will lie down in front of them and they'll have to pull them down over my dead body."

But Barrandov's new chief has no time for sentimentality anchored in bygone days.

"These people are living in a dream world," Marhoul said in an interview with Reuters. "They don't have their feet on earth. They are

expecting that the sixties will return."

"Barrandov is... a private, market-driven company. As such it does not have a duty to keep some national tradition," he said.

His drive to match Barrandov's production with the demands of the market coincide with changing tastes since 1989.

According to a poll conducted by the Mladý Svět Magazine, Czechs' interest in cinematic drama has dropped by more than a third since the fall of communism. In contrast, appetite for action films, especially U.S. made films, has doubled.

Under communism, films were shown according to strict predetermined quotas and protected from competition by restrictions on the number of "decadent"

Western films that were allowed to be shown in public cinemas.

In 1988, the last full year of Communist rule, American films accounted for just over eight per cent of cinema listings.

In 1992, the percentage had soared to over 75 per cent — a solid argument for those who say Barrandov must cater to mass tastes and international audiences if it is to survive.

The reason is simple: Size. The Czech Republic is a market of 10 million people which means that even box office hits cannot produce large profits.

"The Czech cinema audience is the same as any other in Europe, it is absolutely interested in American film — comedies, action movies and so on," said Marhoul.

"A... Czech film made for the Czech market would not make any money."

While Chytilova and her band of director-supporters have acquired something of a popular following, it seems their protests against Barrandov's sell-off will fall on deaf ears.

However, some leading lights of Czech cinema feel not all is lost.

Jiri Menzel, one of the most famous Czech film directors, insists that good films could continue to be made in the Czech Republic.

"The question remains whether it will be possible to make artistic films, films that have something to say," he said. Implying that it was near-impossible to make good films and a profit as well.

Independent directors bring sex, rock 'n' roll to Chinese films

By Dan Biers
 The Associated Press

BEIJING — The Days goes where no other Chinese film has dared venture before, opening with an erotic scene of a young couple noisily making love in their Beijing flat.

So, too, Beijing Bastards, a movie whose young protagonists drink heavily, get in bar fights and spew profanity, all to the non-Socialist beat of raucous rock 'n' roll.

Yes, this is still Communist China, where prudish censors are horrified by anything beyond a chaste kiss and government studios are loathe to tackle politically sensitive topics such as the urban counter culture.

What's new is a fledgling independent film movement, powered by daring young directors who are shunning the restrictive state-run studios to make a completely new breed of very personal, realistic Chinese movies.

"I want to discard the hypocrisies of our cinema," 30-year-old director Zhang Yuan wrote of Beijing Bas-

tards, which he completed earlier this year.

"Like the characters in the film, I am also searching... for a style, a theme, a sense of life."

Others are making independent video documentaries, such as Wu Wenguang's 1990 *Bumming In Beijing* — The Last Dreamers, a look at the difficulties faced by underground artists.

One reason independent films are just now emerging is that China's booming economy has made it possible for young directors to scrape together funding from friends, family and other nonofficial sources and to buy or rent filmmaking equipment.

"It's better to make movies this way," says 27-year-old director Wang Xiaoshuai, who shot *The Days* on a shoestring budget of about \$17,500, much of it from a businessman friend.

"It can give play to one's own personal characteristics. There aren't any limitations."

Not in content, perhaps, but there are obstacles aplenty in getting the movies onto the big screen



Chen Kaige, director of the Chinese film *Farewell My Concubine*

in China.

The Communist regime continues to tightly control the media and arts and regards as illegal any movie made outside official channels.

No film can be screened

without the backing of state-run studios, which are preoccupied with churning out Socialist historical epics and apolitical entertainment such as *Kung Fu* adventures. Not a single independent Chinese movie

showed at the inaugural Shanghai International Film Festival that opened on Oct. 7. Most of them have been shown only to small groups of people at private video viewings.

Authorities are even

trying to prevent the independent directors from showing their films abroad. China's delegation walked out of the Tokyo International Film Festival on Sept. 29 to protest the showing of *Beijing Bastards* and another unofficial entry.

The government is concerned that critical acclaim abroad may make it more difficult to suppress controversial films at home. Earlier this year, censors grudgingly allowed the wide release of director Chen Kaige's *Farewell To My Concubine* after it won the top prize at the Cannes Film Festival. The movie recently received mixed reviews at the New York Film Festival.

Chen is one of several directors who injected a breath of freshness into China's moribund film industry in the 1980s. With the backing of a few official but relatively innovative studios, they told stories that questioned authority, chronicled rural poverty and began to examine the dark side of Communist rule.

Their work tested the limit of what was permissible (Farewell To My Concubine confronted homosexuality and the human suffering of the ultraleftist 1966-76 Cultural Revolution) and often was banned or cut by the government. Many won international acclaim, making it possible for them to get foreign funds for new projects. *Concubine* was made with Taiwanese funds.

The new generation of independents are having a much tougher time. While they reject the studio system, which has little work for untested directors, they don't yet have the reputations to gain overseas financial backing.

Zhang was assigned to the military-run August First Studio after graduating from the Beijing Film Academy in 1989, but quickly left to make *Mama*, an unsentimental look at a mother and her mentally retarded son filmed in black and white. Funding was so tight that the 1990 movie was shot in his own home. *Mama*, which has won several awards at interna-

tional film festivals, eventually was released domestically on a limited basis by Xian Film Studio. But no state-run film studio is touching the more provocative *Beijing Bastards* or Wang's *The Days*, the story of a young couple's troubled marriage.

"The most significant thing about these films is that they were made at all," said Paul Clark, a specialist in Chinese cinema who teaches at the University of Auckland in New Zealand. He predicted that state control of distribution will ease and non-official film studios will emerge.

While Wang and Zhang both expressed disappointment their films cannot reach a mass audience, they remain undaunted and are busy at work on new independent projects, hoping the government eventually eases its restrictions.

"I think the Chinese would be able to accept our works," says Wang. "The content is realistic. I think the Chinese people would like to view this type of realism."

Apollinaire and his painter friends

By Jean-Marc Dupuch

Just like Baudelaire, Apollinaire was a poet and an art critic, with the same demand for modernity. An exhibition at the Pavillon Des Arts retraces his enchantment, his aesthetic struggles and his friendships.

PARIS — In 1914, Apollinaire was preparing an "album of lyrical and coloured ideograms", called "Moi Aussi Je Suis Peintre" (I Am A Painter Too). The introduction to it was the famous "premonitory portrait", a work by Chirico in which the painter had marked the poet's head with a sign which was soon, in the rage of the war, to be the target for a shell fragment.

Apollinaire's work is marked by his friendship with painters. "Alcools" was illustrated with a cubist portrait by Picasso. Derrain designed the woodcuts for

ernity and was thus immediately able to recognise the greatest and become the voice of cubism.

Apollinaire lived at a time when "painting was not a reproductive but a creative art". Since painting ceased to depict and became its own object, it drew closer to poetry. "Cubism leads to poetical painting", he rejoiced. And his art reviews were poetic criticism, which even took on the form of a poem for Delaunay's "Fenêtres" (Windows).

Passionate Curiosity

It was not analytical but offered the vision of a poet, and that vision was inspired by light: "I like today's art because, above all, I like light and, as all men love light above all, they invented fire". So man in-

vented fire in order to imitate light and he invented the wheel to imitate walking. Through his artistic creation, the modern artist extends the primordial discoveries of human genius.

In the preface to the catalogue of the 1918 Matisse-Picasso exhibition, Apollinaire wrote: "Just like an orange, Henri Matisse's work is the fruit of dazzling light". On the subject of Picasso's paintings, he speaks of "the internal light in the depths of which, however, lie the abysses of mysterious darkness". For Delaunay, he invented the word "orplism" in order to describe an art "which simultaneously gives expression to all the colours of the prism."

He was passionately curious and knew all about Italian and then Russian

futurism, the dada events in Zurich and the rayonism of Larionov and Goncharova for whom he wrote a preface to their exhibition in 1914. In his articles, he did not forget Cézanne, Seurat, Van Dongen and Bonnard, nor women painters among whom figured Marie Laurencin, the muse of his "Pont Mirabeau". She was painted in his company by "Le Douanier" Rousseau, another friend.

He did not content himself with praising Picasso and Braque for "inserting letters from signs and other inscriptions in their works of art". He applauded poster designers such as Cappiello, considering that "in a modern town, advertising plays a very important artistic rôle."

As a lover of Oceanian and African art, of which he



The poet Guillaume Apollinaire and his friends painted by Marie Laurencin in 1900

owned some collector's items, in 1909 he asked museums to stop considering exotic curiosities and to acknowledge their quality

as works of art the same as Roman statues. And if, in order to meet his wishes, a museum was created in order to group them together, he suggested, out

of an eclectic love for beautiful things, that the delicate art of lace be included in it as it is "more precious than gold itself" — *L'Actualité En France*.

New cholera bacteria creates worldwide scare

By Partha S. Banerjee

CALCUTTA — Zia Shahi, 25, a tall, well-built peasant from Sondalia village, 20 miles from Calcutta in eastern India, was in perfect health the evening before the attack. "Suddenly, around midnight, he had to rush to the toilet, then again, then again," said his father Babur Ali at Calcutta's Infectious Diseases Hospital where Zia had just been admitted. "Soon, he was too weak to move, but there seemed to be no end to the watery, smelly diarrhea. In the morning, the local doctor said he had the cholera and told us to rush him to this hospital."

At the hospital's emergency ward last month, Zia lay as if in a coma, his eyes sunken, his pulse very feeble. He was the day's 70th cholera case at the Infectious Diseases (ID) Hospital, yet another victim of the rampaging new strain of cholera bacteria that has set off an epidemic in parts of India and Bangladesh. Estimates put the total number infected in both countries at close to 200,000 people with some 5,000 deaths.

International health authorities fear the new cholera microbe could rapidly spread through most parts of Asia, Africa and Latin America. Already, several cases of cholera from the new strain have been reported from Thailand, Malaysia and Nepal. The deadly microbe has even made it to Germany and the U.S.: In Los Angeles last February, a 48-year-old woman of Indian origin came down with acute diarrhea a few hours after returning from a six-week visit to India. Tests showed she had been infected with the new strain.

"Since we cannot predict where or how rapidly this new organism will spread," noted Dr. David L. Swer-



Dr. G. Balakrish Nair of India is credited with discovering the new cholera strain

low and Dr. Allen A. Reis of the Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta (USA) in the British medical journal Lancet. "Countries must stay prepared indefinitely by maintaining surveillance, by assuring access to treatment and by providing clean water and adequate sewage disposal."

Warned the World Health Organisation (WHO) in a report in mid-May: "Although this new strain has to date been reported only from southern Asia, its spread to other areas...is an ominous possibility."

The new cholera strain, named Vibrio Cholerae O 139 Bengal, first came to the attention of Indian medical services in Madras in the fall of 1992. Health officials in the southern Indian city, taken aback by a sudden rise in cholera cases, sent test samples to the National Institute of Cholera and Enteric Diseases (NICED) in Calcutta. The Madras doctors were surprised that the bacteria responsible for the outbreak was not Vibrio Cholerae O 1, the usual cholera-causing micro-

organism. Apart from O 1, scientists recognise 137 other strains of Vibrio Cholerae, collectively called non-O 1. Though non-O 1 strains occasionally cause diarrhea and similar diseases, they do not harbour the virulent toxin that induces cholera. "But since mid-November 1992, one of my research students working at the ID Hospital, kept reporting mostly non-O 1 cholera cases," said Dr. G. Balakrish Nair, senior research officer at NICED who discovered O 139. "That surprised us and then we received the samples from Madras which were again non-O 1 but containing O 1's virulent cholera toxin."

Dr. Nair and his colleagues, after extensive tests found the strain "untypable": Not only did it not react with the diagnostic antiserum for O 1 (hence it was classified non-O 1), it also did not respond to antiserum prepared for detecting the 137 known non-O 1 strains. Yet it produced as much cholera toxin as O 1. In mid-January, Dr. Nair concluded the new strain formed an entirely new non-O 1 group, and shipped samples to the NICED

team's Japanese collaborators at the University of Kyoto for confirmation.

In February, Dr. Nair was invited to Dhaka, Bangladesh, by the International Centre for Diarrheal Disease Research (ICDDR) based there. Exchanging notes with Bangladesh scientists, he realised the new strain had already caused an epidemic in that country. In March, Dr. Nair, Kyoto University's Dr. Yoshifumi Takeda and ICDDR researchers, reported their findings in the Lancet, noting that "isolation of similar strains from widely separated regions confers an epidemic potential to these isolates."

Within a month of that report, O 139's epidemic potential was in full evidence. Suddenly, ambulances, taxis, even small trucks were rushing severely dehydrated cholera patients to hospitals in Calcutta and neighbouring districts. At the 780-bed ID Hospital, an average of 400 new patients were admitted every day. New makeshift wards had to be opened, and many patients accommodated in the corridors. "It was hell," said Hospital Superintendent Dr. B.K. Das. "They were excreting up to a liter of water every time. No stool. Just grayish water. They were swimming in water. We had a terrible time keeping the wards clean. I have never seen anything like this."

The hospital did away with mattresses; the beds had just mackintosh sheets. One reason the facility managed to cope with the deluge of patients was the quick turn-around time for cholera cases. Treatment essentially consists of replacing the lost fluid as quickly as possible by intravenous saline drip or orally. Antibiotics are sometimes administered but most patients, teetering on

the brink of death when admitted, can be safely discharged from the hospital within two days.

By the end of May, the worst seemed to be over, though even today around 75 cholera cases come in every day at the ID Hospital. In Bangladesh, too, the epidemic appears to have lost its initial vigor. Scientists, however, believe the new strain, harder than its predecessors, will continue to infect hundreds of thousands of people in South Asia and elsewhere till such time as the general population develops a natural immunity to it. "For the population here, that could well take 3-4 years," said Dr. B.C. Deb, a senior NICED scientist.

Indeed experts are wondering if the South Asian epidemic will kick off the eighth cholera pandemic. Pandemics are said to occur when epidemics rage across the globe; the first documented cholera pandemic began in 1817, while the seventh started in 1961. This last pandemic, which originated in Indonesia and was caused by a slightly different type of the O 1 strain called El Tor, accounted for three million cases and tens of thousands of deaths. The seventh pandemic, in fact, has not yet died down; last year some 500,000 cases from 54 countries were reported.

This year, that figure could double with O 139 Bengal replacing O 1 El Tor as the deadly bacterial strain. Like O 1, O 139



The new cholera strain called O 139, seen here magnified 60,000 times, has already infected several hundred thousand people in India and Bangladesh

thrives in dirty, unsanitary conditions and is usually transmitted through water or food contaminated by the feces of an infected person. In the 19th century, Queen Victoria's obstetrician John Snow, noticing that the highest casualty rates in London were in people drawing water from a hand pump in Soho, first showed that cholera was a water-borne infection and not, as then believed, transmitted through air.

After an incubation period of between 12 hours and several days, the cholera bacteria causes an infection in the small intestine. The intestine begins secreting vast quantities of fluid which is evacuated from the bowel as watery motion. The patient com-

plaints of muscle cramps, vomits and within hours severe dehydration sets in, with blood pressure plunging. If not immediately rehydrated, the patient slips into a coma and can die of shock or kidney failure within 48 hours or less.

Though a cholera vaccine exists, it is not always effective and has serious side-effects: WHO does not recommend it. And in any case, the vaccine is useless against O 139. But in June, scientists at Harvard Medical School reported that they have developed a prototype vaccine against the new strain. In a letter to Dr. Nair and Dr. Takeda, one of the Harvard scientists, John Mekalanos wrote that "we may now have a chance

to box or at least slow the pandemic spread of O 139. Optimistic, yes! Impossible? Let's hope not!"

Even without a vaccine, cholera is a preventable disease if proper sanitary conditions are maintained. And if patients are quickly removed to hospital and rehydrated, it is rarely fatal. During the epidemic's peak last spring, the fatality rate at Calcutta's ID Hospital was three per cent. Scientists do not fear that the Western World has much to fear from O 139 because of generally high sanitation standards, but people travelling to India, Bangladesh and other affected countries should take particular care in selecting food and drink — World News Link.

Existing drugs could provide 'safe, cheap, at-home abortions'

By Brenda C. Coleman
The Associated Press

CHICAGO — A combination of two drugs already available in the United States could be used to give women safe, at-home abortions for less than \$6 plus the cost of doctor's visits, according to a small, preliminary study.

The drugs, an ulcer medicine called Misoprostol and an anti-cancer drug called Methotrexate, induced abortions in eight of the 10 women who participated in the study.

The drugs caused negligible side effects, said Dr. Mitchell D. Creinin and Philip D. Darney, who did the study at the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF). Results appear in the October issue of the journal Contraception.

The authors and other

experts cautioned that the technique must be proven safe and effective in more than just 10 women before being used outside of tightly supervised studies.

Dr. Eric Bieber, director of reproductive endoscopy at the University of Chicago, pointed out that Methotrexate is used to fight cancer, adding: "It isn't just a nothing drug." "Not too many women are willing to sign up for a thing that works 80 per cent of the time," added Dr. Bieber, who was uninvolved in the study.

The technique failed in two of four women who received Misoprostol orally after an injection of Methotrexate. The researchers then began placing Misoprostol tablets directly into the uterus, and the remaining six abortions suc-

ceeded. All of the women were less than eight weeks pregnant.

The initial test was so promising that UCSF has tried it on more than 50 women and hopes to publish the expanded results soon, Dr. Creinin said. Researchers also plan to expand the trials even further, he said.

Methotrexate destabilizes the uterus lining. Misoprostol causes uterine contractions a few hours after being given, expelling the fetus and placenta.

The amount of Misoprostol used for each woman in the study cost less than \$4 per dose and the amount of Methotrexate used cost less than \$2 per dose, Dr. Creinin said.

Added to that would be the cost of one or more doctor's visits, but the abortion occurs at home, with

the women experiencing it as a heavy menstrual period, he said.

Besides allowing women to avoid surgery and the blockades, demonstrations and threats some have faced at clinics, the medications would permit "circumventing the political circus going on with RU-486," the so-called abortion pill, Dr. Creinin said.

RU-486 is approved in France, Great Britain, Sweden and China, but it has faced a long political battle from U.S. abortion opponents and is nowhere near reaching the market.

About 1.6 million U.S. surgical abortions are done each year, but the procedure is available in only 17 per cent of U.S. counties, according to the Planned Parenthood Federation of America.

WEEKEND CROSSWORD

AU-SOME

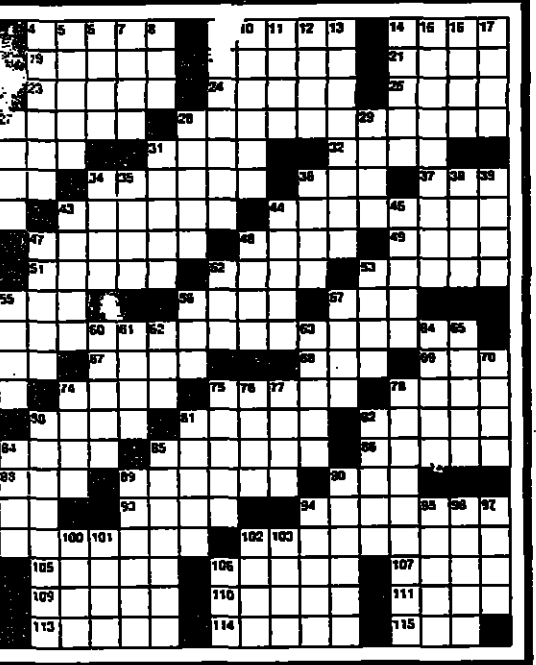
By Raymond Hamel

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Last Week's Cryptograms

- Collector of old curios grew furious when curious little gamin smashed two precious pieces.
- Tiny Tim tripped over a tall tulip and may have to give up the tiptoeing.
- New friend presents young newfriends with gift of a free honeymoon to old mushroom plantation.
- Shepherd told helper to go tether together two ewes.

CRYPTOGRAMS

1. YZFSFY STUFAND QWAUS-QWSU
ADUBTCYC NDY QWSZZ UWSQ. S
ENWUYBSAD ETE, SDC S ZNBAC HNBC
QTB.

—By Rita Salvato

2. OM XIT LVCE MOFRE ZFAVC, JAFKVR
CIEKOCB GORKE KVVAC BI KIT RALICZ.

—By Gordon Miller

3. HWSFWKEBWWYHUKY MKYI JWYH JAUL KH
LKEHV MKAE JCWY EWNWWEV HZFFWL
MWKHCWEJWATCH MATCH HZZ IZZY.

—By Eugene T. Malachuk

4. FERTAHED FDEHRTA SEN FEATHERED
OERTATNR OH SON FATHERED STOA.

—By Ed Huddleson

Diagramless 10 x 19, By Harold B. Counts

- ACROSS
1 Player for pay
2 A few
3 To — (nearly)
4 Small shoot
5 Gentleman of rank
6 Go-between
7 Fortifies
8 Magma —
9 Pay the check
10 Out of this world

- 23 Lancaster and
24 Burden
25 Tapers
26 SPOE word
27 Ancient
28 Duo
29 Show worth
30 Jumps
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- 43 Sixth sense
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Extract from kudzu may conquer alcohol craving—study

WASHINGTON (AP) — An oriental remedy for alcoholism seems to work — at least in rodents. When tested on hamsters who preferred booze to water, extracts of kudzu root curbed their craving. Harvard researchers say.

Dr. Bert L. Vallee of the Harvard Medical School said the kudzu extract "has been used widely in China and Japan for centuries to treat alcoholism. You can buy the stuff in pill form over the counter in Japan and China."

Dr. Vallee and his colleague, Wing-Ming Keung, collected information about the use of kudzu from doctors in Asia and found that since about 200 A.D. it has been a treatment to suppress alcohol consumption. "They make a concoction of it and drink it as tea," said Dr. Vallee.

To test its effect on alcohol craving, the researchers used an unusual animal called the Syrian golden hamster. Dr. Vallee said this animal has the unique characteristic of having a huge appetite and capacity for alcohol.

"These hamsters will drink alcohol in preference to water," he said. "It had not been previously appreciated that it prefers alcohol as much as it does."

In a study published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, Dr. Vallee and Dr. Keung report that if given the choice, the golden hamster will develop an alcohol consumption rate that, if scaled up to human size, would be about 40 times greater than the capacity of the typical human drunk.

This was established by giving caged hamsters the side-by-side choice of drinking from a dish of pure water or from a dish that contained a 15 per cent solution of alcohol and water. The hamsters preferred the cocktail and eventually would choose to ignore the plain water.

Dr. Vallee said the researchers identified the active ingredient in kudzu as a compound called daidzin. This was synthesised and then injected into 71 of the hamsters.

The kudzu compounds also were tested against approved drugs now commonly used to blunt the appetite for drink in human alcoholics. Dr. Vallee said the kudzu products worked better.

Dr. Vallee said the kudzu drugs did not affect the hamsters' appetite for food and seemed to produce no toxicity in the animals.

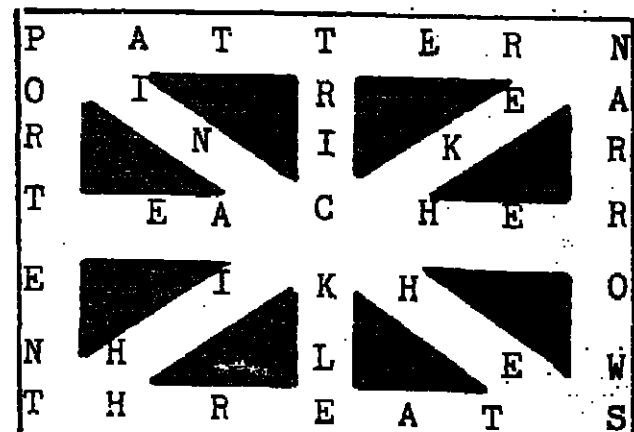
Control animals received injections of other extracts. Their alcohol craving was undiminished.

Another extract from kudzu, called daidzein, had a similar effect.

The solution is shown in the diagram below.

SOLUTION JACK-POT

The solution is shown in the diagram below.



'Our region's ongoing transformations will generate a new political and social culture that responds to the rights and responsibilities of new generations of women'

The following is the full address of Her Majesty Queen Noor at the conference on Middle Eastern women organised by Teachers College Columbia University, New York, on Nov. 5-6, 1993:

I am very pleased to join you here today for this important and timely conference organised by Teachers College Columbia University. Our gathering is important because the issues before us are crucial to the social and political transformations under way in the Middle East. It is timely because at this defining moment of change for the region, these transformations will be deeply influenced by the expanded nature and quality of women's participation in society.

Except for a small group of women pioneers in a few countries, most Middle Eastern women traditionally have interacted with society primarily through their family roles as daughters, sisters, wives and mothers — traditional roles that have been shaped by powerful and sometimes restraining cultural, religious, political and economic forces that you will discuss over the next two days. Yet these traditional women's roles are changing in many countries where women seek greater fulfillment through their individual identities, ambitions and developing capabilities. The impact of developmental gains, expanded social services and more effective use of the mass media to promote social awareness at the family level has already brought about a fundamental shift in the minds and daily preoccupations of many women from the struggle to assure their basic human needs, to the fulfillment of their creative, intellectual and professional aspirations. Women's growing expectations and wider horizons throughout the predominantly Arab/Islamic Middle East have already expanded their participation and contributions to society in fields such as business, the professions, the arts, human rights and politics.

The last three generations of our women have taken advantage of new opportunities presented, successively, by national independence, development

and political liberalisation. At the family and community level, women have played a central role in changing their society, in turn, society has offered them opportunities to broaden their personal and professional activities and to heighten their aspirations.

The progress of women has been dramatic in several sectors. For example, in the last three decades, the average primary school gross enrollment ratio of females in the Middle East has doubled from 39 to 78 per cent. Female-adult literacy has more than doubled in the last two decades from 17 to 44 per cent.

In the last decade, the Arab Islamic states of the Middle East registered the fastest declines in the mortality rates of children under the age of five, as well as the greatest increase in immunisation rates of infants under the age of one.

These major, sustained developmental gains of the last several decades can be directly attributed to women's enhanced education, activism, and community participation, at the local and national level.

The roots of women's participation in public life and national development are anchored deeply in the modern history and culture of the Arab World. Women played substantial grassroots roles in the nationalist struggles for independence earlier this century in Algeria, Tunisia and Palestine. Since the 1950s women have held prominent official and professional posts in the former South Yemen, Bahrain, Jordan, Iraq and other countries.

Today, throughout the Middle East, women participate even more actively in national decision-making and political activity. Throughout the region, women are contributing in greater numbers of education, the economy, community and social service, government, and intellectual and ideological debate. Women are particularly active in the fields of human rights and legal protection for individuals and minorities. They have initiated and led non-violent protests and nationwide political campaigns, against inter-Arab conflict and western militarism,

and for democracy, human rights and gender equity. In several countries women are lobbying for changes in labour and personal status laws. I would cite female education in Jordan, for example, as a barometer of how women's status in society has changed dramatically over the last two generations.

In 1950, girls made up less than 25 per cent of primary school students; today, they account for 50 per cent. In 1950, only a handful of Jordanian women attended university, today 49 per cent of all college and university students in our country are women.

At the same time, women have suffered new or increased pressures due to rapid urbanisation, industrialisation and economies based on wage labour. They endure the consequences of male migration, rural environmental degradation, deteriorating urban conditions and escalating pressures as working mothers, single daughters and female heads of households. Many families throughout the region also suffer the disruptive impact of warfare and mass refugee displacements, as well as economic stresses due to foreign debt and economic adjustment.

The net consequence of these positive and negative trends is that the status of women is changing throughout all sectors of society — at home, in the workplace and in the public arena of political debate. Nowhere is this as evident as in Palestine, where women have played a leading and invaluable role in sustaining and protecting their communities during the long years of Israeli military occupation. Palestinian women assumed responsibility for community-based self-help programmes as a result of economic constraints and reduced family incomes caused by curfews, strikes and travel restrictions, and when thousands of Palestinian men were jailed, expelled, injured or killed.

Women played a central political role in national resistance, while simultaneously managing family gardens and communal livestock herds, health and education centres and social services for the disabled and the needy. They provided the emotional and material sustenance required to maintain social cohesion in a moment of national distress. The women of Iraq and Lebanon similarly held their families and communities together in times of violence and destruction.

Throughout the region, women continuously reach out across borders to offer political and material

support to others suffering the ravages of war and civil strife. These Arab women have given us a glimpse of our future — a future in which committed men and women engage in the challenge of nation-building on the basis of participation, democracy and partnership. In the future, the women of the Middle East are likely to play increasingly important roles as catalysts of change, national reconciliation and solidarity, and as agents of stability and development — expansive, humanistic roles that transcend the introspective tendencies of religions and cultures.

"Real transformation will occur when our laws recognise actual changes in society and consolidate women's hard-earned gains, and when the prevalent patriarchal mentality accepts the role of women without question and without discrimination."

Nevertheless, most laws, regulations and practices have not evolved to reflect the changes in women's role in society. This gap continues to hinder the development of women in our region. Real transformation will occur when our laws recognise actual changes in society and consolidate women's hard-earned gains, and when the prevalent patriarchal mentality accepts the role of women without question and without discrimination.

In addressing the status and role of women within the broader context of our region's transformation, it is necessary to recognise the importance of cultural and political perspectives. A meaningful assessment of Middle Eastern women must view them within their own national, spiritual and historical context, it is meaningless and counterproductive for western observers to continue to abstract Middle Eastern women from their own cultural framework and to assess them on the basis of western cultural values.

The quest for accuracy will require shedding the common western-orientalist legacy of ignorance, misconceptions and media-generated stereotypes of Middle Eastern women — women who are too often perceived in the West as subjugated, socially subservient, economically repressed, intellectually curtailed and politically peripheral.

This tendency to typecast Arab and Islamic women is facilitated by the increasingly common western perception of Islam as a possible threat, or even a new civilisational adversary. Many in the West find it convenient to brand Islam as confrontational, inherently undemocratic and oppressive of women. The reality is rather different, and

far more complex. The status of women in the Middle East must be seen in the context of the social structure that requires all members of the family, including women, to sacrifice some individual rights for the sake of the total well-being of the family and society. Genuine Islam that is not distorted by fanaticism or fear clearly dictates an egalitarian concept of society for men and women. The Holy Koran and the Prophet's life and sayings specify equal treatment of males and females in child care, education, business, property rights and other fields. Many of the personal rights

that women in the West obtained during the last two centuries were guaranteed to and practised by Muslim women over one thousand and four hundred years ago — though the exercise of some of those rights has been impaired in recent centuries by the power of ultraconservative social traditions that are not related to Islamic doctrine or teachings.

In stark contrast to the prevalent perception in the West, the defining characteristic of Middle Eastern women is not passive conformity, but rather dynamic diversity. Women's status in the Middle East is neither as uniform nor as oppressed as the prevailing western imagery makes it out to be. At the same time, advances in women's opportunities are neither as consistent nor as pervasive as we would like them to be. Many Arab women who have achieved remarkable successes are still uncomfortable with the legal and social constraints they suffer and are striving to improve future opportunities for themselves and their daughters.

Many women in our region today are subject to powerful forces beyond their control. In some communities, economic pressures and social norms often determine a woman's opportunities — in such basic life choices as education, marriage, fertility, employment and community action. In periods of economic recession, for exam-

ple, men are likely to get priority in employment and vocational training, while women are likely to be encouraged to marry at a younger age.

The current strength of conservative and religious forces in the Middle East — in Muslim, Christian or Jewish societies alike — place many women before a difficult dilemma. On the one hand, they are encouraged by the state's facilities to be educated and to work, but on the other hand they are pressured by conservative community forces to focus primarily on their traditional reproductive, nurturing and home-making roles. Despite these conflicting forces, I believe that most women throughout the Middle East seek to develop their personal capabilities and to expand their opportunities in order to contribute to their broader national goals of freedom, justice, productivity and stability. Many do so by diversifying their home and community activities and their professional and political involvement. Women activists address issues of particular concern to women, such as discrimination in labour and inheritance laws, sexual violence, educational and training opportunities and personal status issues such as marriage, divorce and child custody.

On the basis of our own experience in Jordan, I am convinced that the dynamic between the forces of tradition and modernism will eventually result in greater opportunities for women, especially if economic conditions continue to improve. Conversely, widespread and often chronic poverty is a major threat to the education and development of women. Our region continues to suffer an enormous gap between hopes and capabilities — between the rights and aspirations of its peoples and the capacities of its various economies to respond to them.

Nevertheless, new opportunities for women are emerging every day. They are an integral part of a broader process of national renewal and rebirth that defines the entire region. Many of our societies have explored the path to greater political participation, liberalisation and democratisation, while this trend has not been sustained in all Middle Eastern societies, our experience in Jordan suggests that it will prevail ultimately because it serves the best

interests of all members of society. We are challenged today not simply to expand opportunities for women — but to do so without destroying the woman's role as the anchor of the family. This pivotal role has probably been the single most important factor for social stability and communal identity in Middle Eastern cultures. We are challenged to provide women with greater possibilities for self-fulfilment without placing impossible pressures on their family responsibilities. We are challenged to promote a family culture that allocates domestic responsibilities more equitably among men and women — a family culture that liberates itself from existing stigmas on men's domestic duties and alleviates women's burdens at home.

We hope and anticipate that our region's ongoing transformations will generate a new political and social culture that responds to the rights, aspirations and responsibilities of new generations of educated women. That new culture would be a synthesis of traditionalism and modernism. It could provide a more liberal alternative to existing Middle Eastern practices that so many women find constraining, and it might offer an alternative to the social crises suffered by western cultures that have overemphasised individual rights and responsibilities at the expense of the supportive family unit.

The role of women within the family in our region reflects social norms and values that are very different from those of the western world. Because of our emphasis on family, community and the domestic role of women, we have largely escaped the ravages of violence, drug and alcohol addiction, and crime that plague western industrialised societies. Those of you who know our region and appreciate its potential have a significant role to play as communicators and bridges of cultural understanding between the Middle East and the West. This is all the more urgent because of the dominant western intellectual trend towards what Samuel Huntington calls "a clash of civilisations" — the concept that differences between civilisations, rather than political ideologies, will trigger global conflict in the future.

We have much to learn from the West about individual freedoms

and opportunities, structures of civil society, and pluralistic, representative democracy, and we have much to teach the West about family values, social cohesion and communal durability. Our civilisations are ripe for a mutually satisfying synthesis and exchange of experience, rather than for a new global conflict.

As you explore the many facets of our culture and our multiple relationships with your culture and economies, you have a rare opportunity to broaden the knowledge and options of Middle Eastern women as they define their developmental role, and to enlighten western scholars about the dimensions of another culture that has built its solid social structures over a period of thousands of years.

The empowerment of women will enrich societies as a whole. The women of the Middle East will chart their own personal journeys to destinations that we cannot know today, but that we must help them to reach for the sake of our common future.

Your expertise and your access to the media and to decision-making process can help transform a potential "clash of civilisations" into a mutually beneficial process of learning and respect. For just as domestic societies are enriched by pluralism in ethnicity, race, religion and political ideology, so is global society enriched by pluralism of civilisation, culture and human values. I urge you to respond as intellectuals and members of scholarly institutions to the full challenge of Samuel Huntington's call for the West "to develop a more profound understanding of the basic religious and philosophical assumptions underlying other civilisations... and to identify elements of commonality between western and other civilisations."

This will require bold new intellectual and socio-political initiatives — but it will also require redressing some distortions from the past. If we are to check and then to eliminate the stereotyping of the peoples of the Middle East, we will have to wage the same kinds of battles that were waged in this country during many decades for the sake of racial, ethnic and sexual equality. Our most effective means of action in this battle is not confrontation, but mutual understanding based on knowledge, respect and tolerance.



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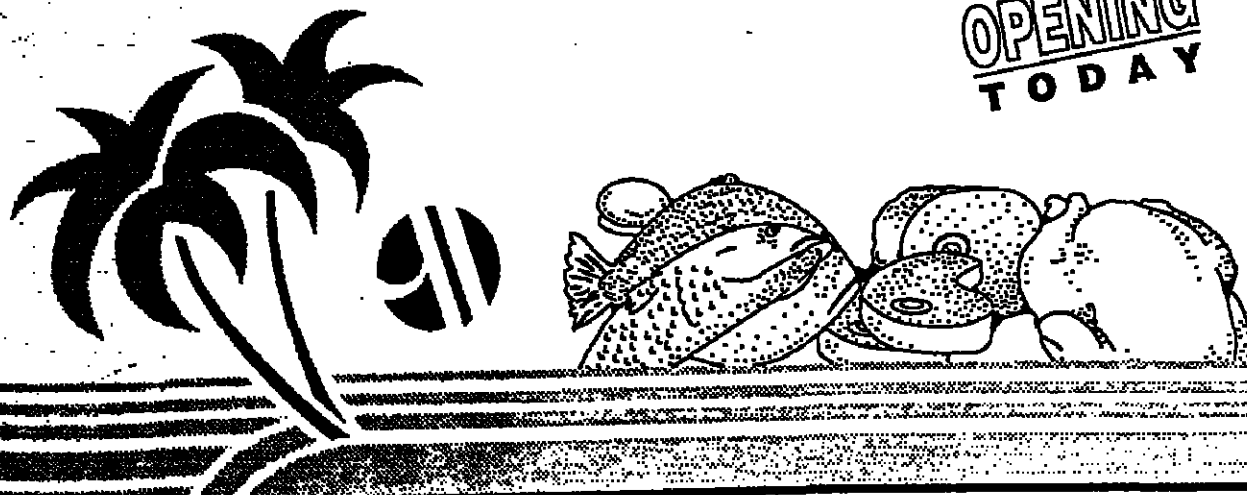
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The delegation of 35 businessmen from 26 major suppliers in Taiwan will be in Amman from 13-14 Nov., 1993 with their latest products' samples. So, don't miss this opportunity to make business with Taiwan. (For appointments, please contact Miss Bayan from 08:00-13:00 and 14:00-16:30 hours -Tel. 671526 - 671530)

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OPEC groundswell for non-OPEC output cuts

MANAMA (R) — Gulf Arab members of OPEC are calling for non-OPEC help to boost oil prices, but it is not immediately clear whether the organisation itself will consider an output cut.

For once the organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) seems to be generally adhering to its production agreement, yet prices are around post-Gulf war lows.

The question is how to rescue prices, and a growing body of opinion in the group is that OPEC should at least ask for cuts from those outside the group.

Some non-OPEC producers

have voluntarily cut output to support prices in the past, and it appeared that some might at least be willing to consider a request.

Kuwaiti Oil Minister Ali Al Baghli and Qatari Energy and Industry Minister Abdullah Bin Hamad Al Attiyah called publicly for non-OPEC help in remarks reported Wednesday, and other OPEC sources have been saying the same privately.

"Baghli urged non-OPEC producers to reduce their production voluntarily and expressed his belief that OPEC had done all in its capacity," the Kuwaiti newspaper Al Qabas said.

He was reported as saying there was a possibility an OPEC committee could be formed to visit non-OPEC countries.

Qatar's Attiyah told Reuters in Abu Dhabi: "OPEC alone cannot protect all the time, cannot play the role for the others and protect the others. All the others should work even non-OPEC members."

With petroleum demand weakening, British and Norwegian oil production outside OPEC has risen sharply.

Oman, a leader in a loose grouping called the independent petroleum exporting countries, indicated it would

be willing to study an OPEC request but had not yet received one.

A source at the Omani oil ministry told Reuters any action it did take would probably be in coordination with others outside OPEC. Oman raised its output two to three months ago to 800,000 barrels per day (b/d) from 750,000, oil sources say.

But non-OPEC cuts have never been binding pledges in writing, and OPEC ministers meeting in Vienna on Nov. 23 will have to decide whether to make cuts of their own as well.

Iranian Oil Minister Gholamreza Aqazadeh had earlier,

before the talk of non-OPEC cuts, said the current ceiling should be cut if it did not lead to stronger prices.

But Al Qabas quoted Kuwait's Baghli as saying his country would not reduce production "by one barrel". Kuwait had made plenty of sacrifices and OPEC now had to address itself to non-members to urge their cooperation, he said.

Iran and Kuwait were to examine OPEC's options in talks in Kuwait Wednesday. Iranian envoy Hussain Kazempour Ardabili arrived in the emirate for what a Kuwaiti oil ministry spokesman said was talks on weak prices.

Sheikh Attiyah, while urging non-OPEC cooperation, would not rule out OPEC cuts also: "All the doors are open to discuss whatever, and what's the reason (behind weak prices)."

World oil prices tumbled Tuesday to their lowest since the 1991 Gulf war but bounced back in what traders said could be a precarious recovery.

London December futures for the world benchmark Brent Blend of crude oil fell to \$15.40 per barrel, the lowest since June 1990. It then rose back to \$15.74 before sinking again to around \$15.60, little changed from Monday's close.

PLO official proposes Gaza free zone

TUNIS (R) — A senior PLO official Tuesday proposed that the Gaza Strip, one of two areas earmarked for early Palestinian self-rule, be turned into an economic free zone.

Jaweed Al Ghossein, the PLO's top economic official, said such a move would boost the economic viability of a future Palestinian state.

"That could become one of the most important banking

and financial centres in the Middle East, attracting both international and Arab investment and capital," he told Reuters.

He also said a sea port to be built in Gaza could play a central role in exchanges between the Mediterranean and the Gulf. "It can serve as a gateway for the goods of many Middle Eastern countries. It can link several Gulf and Arab

states with the Mediterranean by a railway."

The PLO and Israel are negotiating an Israeli withdrawal from the strip, as part of interim arrangements on self-rule for the occupied territories including the Jericho area in the West Bank.

The international community has pledged \$2 billion in aid for development to help implementation of the self-rule

accord.

"Palestine enjoys three basic elements of economic viability: Its location, its labour and human power, and freedom from debt," said Mr. Ghossein, head of the Palestine National Fund and a PLO executive committee member. "The PLO (should) act urgently in order to not miss the available opportunities."

U.N. expert urges peacetime Arab development plan

ABU DHABI (AFP) — A United Nations expert has urged Arab states to end their disputes and draw up a strategy for economic development in anticipation of an Arab-Israeli peace settlement.

Fouad Bseiso, a senior adviser at the Amman-based Economic and Social Commission for West Asia (ESCWA), said such a strategy should cover economic, social, political, cultural and other fields.

"Arab states should map out a development strategy for the post-peace era in the Middle East. It should be forged by an elite group of researchers and scientists and cover all sectors," he said in a lecture in the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

"The strategy should be presented to an Arab summit, which should take a decision to serve the higher national interests. Such a strategy should take into consideration placing the economic interests above political rifts and should be based on the awareness of economic dealings in a world char-

acterised by giant economic blocs, where there is no room for the weak," he emphasised.

The proposal is the first by a U.N. agency since a breakthrough in the Middle East peace process was made with the signing of an autonomy agreement between Israel and Palestinians on Sept. 13.

Experts said economic and social development was essential for stability in the autonomous Palestinian areas as well as Arab countries, where deteriorating living conditions have triggered unrest and given rise to Muslim militants seeking to topple existing regimes.

Dr. Bseiso, who is of a Palestinian origin, said Arab states should not rush to end the boycott of Israel, which he considered as the "only system" to influence the final peace settlement.

He said the 40-year-old boycott had cost the Jewish state nearly \$45 billion and its removal would result in the flow of 37 per cent of Israel's exports into Arab countries.

Euro-Disney reports giant loss

PARIS (R) — Euro Disney SCA, the troubled Theme Park operator, reported a massive 5.3 billion franc (\$900 million) loss Wednesday for the year ending September due to an exceptional balance sheet clean-up.

The company, which introduced the life-size charms of Mickey Mouse and Donald Duck to a depressed European leisure market 18 months ago, said it wrote off an exceptional loss of 3.6 billion francs (\$610 million) for pre-opening costs.

Analysts said the loss was greater than markets expected and Euro Disney's stock fell by 4.35 per cent from Tuesday's closing price to the Paris Bourse and were suspended with a limit on how low it could fall, the stock exchange said.

"I'm surprised by the extent of the exceptional loss," said analyst Rebecca Winnington-Ingram at brokers Morgan Stanley in London.

She said it effectively wiped out Euro Disney's equity base as it stood at March 31, giving it a net worth of around zero.

Shares in the company, controlled by the U.S. Walt Disney Co. were floated in late 1989 at a price of 77 francs. At 1140 GMT Wednesday they stood at 39.35 francs.

The Euro Disney theme Park opened in April 1992 amid giant celebrations and media hype at Marne-La-Vallée on the eastern outskirts of Paris.

Gore, Perot cross swords in testy NAFTA debate

WASHINGTON (R) — Vice President Al Gore lambasted Texas tycoon Ross Perot as a fear-monger Tuesday in a testy face-to-face debate aimed at rescuing the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) from possible death in Congress.

Mr. Perot, in turn, called Mr. Gore a liar and warned members of Congress that millions of his foot soldiers would punish them in the polls next year should they vote for NAFTA.

"That's a direct political threat," said Mr. Gore, who spun a spirited argument for NAFTA to keep Mr. Perot dancing on the defence. "We are not scared. We're not a nation of quitters."

"The politics of negativism and fear only go so far," he pointed out.

Sitting snugly shoulder to shoulder during the televised debate, the two southerners could have not been further apart in style and substance as they sparred angrily over the complex trade treaty.

From the Gore corner, NAFTA is a jobs winner, a boon to the environment and the best way to lock in reform in Mexico.

As for Mr. Perot: NAFTA is a deal struck by special interests that will aid big-money investors and hurt ordinary Americans, rewarding authoritarianism south of the border.

The unprecedented debate — which was moderated by a talk show host — came a scant eight days ahead of a razor-

tight congressional vote on plans to link the United States, Mexico and Canada into one big free-trade zone.

President Bill Clinton remains about two dozen votes short of the 218 House members he needs to win the NAFTA fight, which is spurring up as a test not only of Mr. Clinton's political clout but also as a barometer of the new post-cold war America.

"This is the kind of choice that comes along only once every 40 or 50 years. This is a major choice for our country of historic proportions," Mr. Gore said on Cable News Network's (CNN) "Larry King Live" show, forum for the debate.

"When we face a choice as important as this one, it's extremely important that we take the right direction. This is a fork in the road. The whole world is watching," he pointed out.

Often dismissed as a wan speaker, a combative Gore lobbed non-stop interruptions at Mr. Perot, a former independent presidential candidate who now presides over a diffuse yet powerful anti-NAFTA coalition.

That coalition — which groups labour unions with conservative isolationists and consumer activists — has raised a bright red flag about the fallout from NAFTA, warning Americans to watch their jobs head south to low-wage Mexico.

"You will hear the giant sucking sound," Mr. Perot

said, using a line he first used in last year's presidential campaign.

Mr. Perot has said that 5.9 million U.S. jobs would be at risk under the free-trade pact, while Mr. Gore said some 200,000 new jobs would be created thanks to NAFTA.

Indeed Mr. Gore said Mr. Perot was pandering to Americans' fears about the economy with his anti-NAFTA crusade and said the billionaire businessman would benefit personally whether the House approves or sinks the pact on Nov. 17.

"Let's go to the big picture and skip the personal stuff," snapped Mr. Perot. "This is not an athletic contest. This is not a question of who wins — this is a question of do the people of the United States and do the people of Mexico win."

That said, a cranky Perot — whose fierce anti-Washington message helped him pull 19 per cent of the vote in last year's presidential race — accused the administration of peddling lies and resorting to propaganda to ram NAFTA through.

The alternative, he said, was simple: "All we got to do is explain to Mexico very nicely that they out-traded us. We've got to make a fair deal. They'll bluff and puff for a few days — but they'll be back."

Speaking to reporters after the debate, Mr. Perot dismissed questions of who won, saying his was an altruistic cause.

Yugoslav government devalues plunging currency

BELGRADE (R) — The Yugoslav government Tuesday announced a 98.65 per cent devaluation of the dinar currency in a bid to relieve the disastrous effects of hyperinflation and crippling international sanctions.

The new dinar was pegged at 700,000 to \$1, down from the previous official rate of 9,400 to \$1, the Yugoslav news agency Tanjug reported.

Tuesday's devaluation was the 20th since World War II but the 10th in last 18 months since the sanctions were applied because of the rump Yugoslav government's role in the Bosnian conflict.

But the latest devaluation still left the currency behind black market rates with the

dollar selling on the street at 1,100,000 dinars as the news of devaluation emerged.

The dinar's black market exchange rates have soared as hyperinflation annihilates the currency's value in an economy flattened by the international sanctions.

At the beginning of this year, inflation was estimated to be running at a year-on-year rate of 19,800 per cent but now, running at one per cent an hour, experts estimate it will top one billion per cent this year.

So far National Bank of Yugoslavia experts said lowering the dinar to the black market was the only way to increase the central bank's reserves.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY NOVEMBER 11, 1993

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: There is a wonderful spirit of cooperation in the air this afternoon and all who use this day to achieve better relations, agreements, contracts, and deals with associates, will make big headway.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Your own personal desire for expansion now has a good chance to be made to operate very much in your behalf so reach out for new experiences.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) You now can see all sides of an opportunity to forge ahead by getting off alone and making decisions, then get a confidential advisor to approve of your plans.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) This is certainly your day to think of persons who would add to your circle of friends with beneficial results following for you and for them.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Use this day into delving into whatever you think that you can do to increase your standing in the community or performance of your vocation.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) You have now the inspiration to gain the new aspirations which are coursing through your mentality so hold on to and use them to your benefit.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Look at your mate, attachment from a different angle and then you will begin to

see how a change in your attitude can improve your personal relationship.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) All kinds of interesting conditions come into the open giving you the chance to utilize them so both you and your partners are more successful.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Put to rest whatever doubts you have about some advantageous changes you have been planning in your activities and proceed with them right away.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Full speed ahead now towards those recreations and amusements that you feel can bring you a whole new enthusiasm about life and living it.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) If a member of your household makes some drastic and dramatic suggestions for upgrading conditions at your residence listen to them closely and follow.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) You would be wise to be out in the world as early as possible dashing here and there being constructive about getting satisfactory results.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Money and property interests should be uppermost in your mind today which is a time when you see clearly and lucidly how to increase your assets.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY NOVEMBER 12, 1993

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Daytime brings the chance that some very unexpected condition could arise under the triple Moon conjunction to Jupiter, Venus and Mercury so it is more than likely your detailed plans will change.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) You have some thoughts to be put in clearer focus in your own mind in the morning to be able to utilize them and later get into the actual necessary details.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Organize your private information to be best used to your advantage, then you will be able to get into the outside requirements to make a success.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) You need to make some decisions that will last how to gain desired ends but later you find ways to get some private backing that can make them work.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Consider the various options you have in worldly activities and then proceed to get into the actual labour you must perform to be effective.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Your new ideas are now pretty much in place so you know what you want to accomplish and now it is up to you to make them operate on a truly worldly basis.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) You find a better way to

get your practical affairs done and this is made even more productive for you by adding some new modern twists to it.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Complete deciding joint ideas with a very wide awake outside associate after which you are able to get into the exact plan and have a real success.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) A different approach at your tasks could produce very satisfactory results so put them in effect right away, then attend to your public duties.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Whatever pertains to the lighter side of life can be arranged easily in the morning but some work necessary to be done later is not so easily done.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) You need to be careful early not to express ideas at your home that could upset family but later you can enjoy inexpensive pleasures outside.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Communicate your wishes for some pleasant recreation shortly with those you are close to and tonight do nothing to link your family at dinner.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Concentrate this morning on whatever means are available for you to increase your income, assets, later you can get into the world of constructive activity.

Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



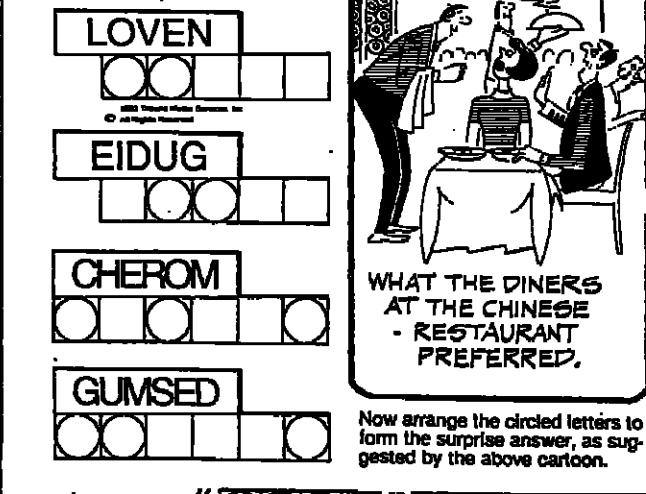
THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris



JUMBLE.

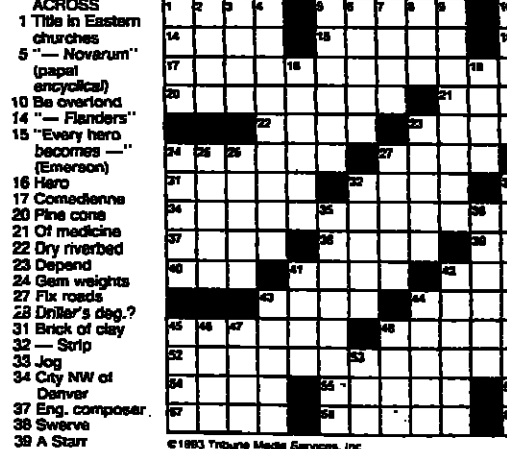
Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



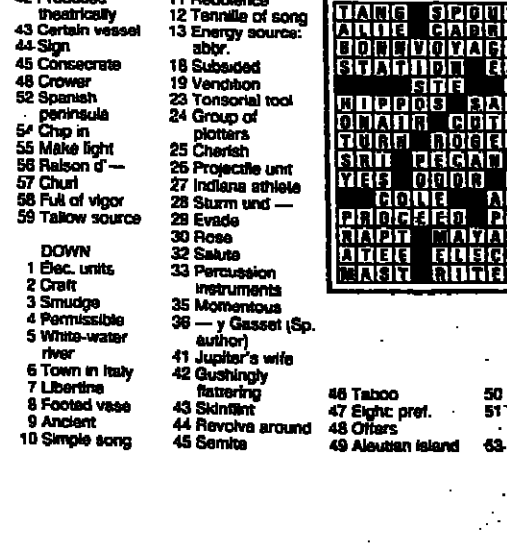
Answer: THE "LOVE" SHAKEN
Yesterday's Jumbles: ERUPT CAMEO UNPACK SHAKEN
Answer: Why the comics lover drove with the radio playing — HE LIKED "CAR-TUNES"

THE Daily Crossword

by Joel Davidson



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Mandela tells S. African rightists agreements not to be renegotiated

JOHANNESBURG (R) — ANC leader Nelson Mandela told black and white conservatives Wednesday that agreements already reached at talks between most other parties in South Africa were not open for renegotiation.

But he said he would welcome the Freedom Alliance of right-wing whites and conservative blacks back to the talks on the country's democratic future.

For months the alliance has been boycotting the talks, mainly to press its demand for a constitution which gives wide powers to South Africa's regions.

The talks resumed Wednesday at the World Trade Centre on the outskirts of Johannesburg in the final countdown to a post-apartheid interim constitution due to be ready by Friday.

They were due to discuss an agreement between the government and the African National Congress (ANC) on the future of the civil service, other constitutional issues, fundamental rights and the role of traditional leaders in a new South Africa.

Mr. Mandela, asked about talks between the government and the Freedom Alliance, told reporters: "If they (the alliance) are going to come back to us to request that we

reopen matters which we have already thrashed out inside the (negotiating) forum... then it means nothing to us."

"We have conceded all their demands and we are not prepared to make any further concessions, and that must be perfectly clear. If they want to press further demands, that we welcome, but the channel for that is the multi-party forum," he said.

But he also said he would welcome the alliance back to the multi-party talks. "That is where they belong and we regret that they pulled out."

Mr. Mandela was speaking after a briefing from the ambassador of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) to Zimbabwe, Ali Halimah, on progress in peace talks between the PLO and Israel.

Comparing the peace process in the Middle East and South Africa, Mr. Mandela said a peaceful resolution of problems was the only way forward.

The Freedom Alliance includes the white pro-apartheid Conservative Party and Zulu chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi's Inkatha Freedom Party, the main black political opponent of the ANC.

The whites are seeking an Afrikaner homeland and the blacks a large degree of auton-

omy within a federal South Africa.

The constitutional package expected to be approved by the end of the week at the multi-party forum envisages a federal state but does not go far enough to satisfy the alliance.

Speaking at the United Nations in New York Tuesday, Mr. Buthelezi accused the ANC of seeking to establish a one-party state in South Africa with the acquiescence of President F.W. de Klerk's white minority government.

"The South African government and the ANC envisage the formation of a transitional government structure which will usurp the functions of the present government for the benefit of the ANC," he said.

Appearing as a petitioner before the General Assembly's Special Political and Decolonisation Committee, Mr. Buthelezi said the ruling National Party was "looking for political survival under a possible ANC/SACP (South African Communist Party) majority through the establishment of a short-lived government of national unity."

But such an arrangement would prove ineffective and not only would the National Party suffer from its own lack of foresight, "but the future security of every citizen of this country would be placed at

unnecessary risk," he said.

"The ANC/SACP alliance is fighting for the full takeover of the central apartheid structure, merely changing National Party policy with policy of its own," he said.

"South Africa would then once again be victim to the dictates of an all-powerful, one party state, with the voice of all other representative groups effectively silenced."

Mr. Buthelezi said the South African government had "bargained away the certainty of constitutional structures capable of protecting freedom, democracy and pluralism for all citizens of South Africa."

This was a costly price to pay for a few more years of government control during the period of transition.

South Africa had reached a crisis in negotiations. If it could not be resolved now, the magnitude of the opposition to these "unilateral moves by the government to force a constitution on the people which they reject," could heighten current levels of tension and violence "to the extent that South Africa is threatened with civil war — an outcome that has to be avoided at all costs."

The committee had earlier recessed for about 10 minutes, to await Mr. Buthelezi's arrival, after hearing a statement by an ANC representative, Trevor Manuel.



AWARD WINNING PHOTO: A robin landing on a dripping garden tap by 52-year-old John Watkins from Woodford Bridge in Essex, has won this year's prestigious British Amateur Photographer of the Year Award Tuesday (AFP photo)

Seoul prepares for any eventuality with North

SEOUL (R) — South Korean President Kim Young-Sam ordered his cabinet Wednesday to prepare for any eventuality in dealing with Communist North Korea's suspected nuclear arms program.

"North Korea's nuclear development should be stopped by all means," Mr. Kim told a meeting of cabinet ministers called to review security on the divided Korean peninsula.

"We should get everything in readiness for any eventuality," Mr. Kim was quoted by his spokesman as saying.

Mr. Kim said he would hold "the final" discussions on the nuclear problem with U.S. President Bill Clinton during a meeting in Washington on Nov. 23.

"The resolution of the nuclear issue is now arriving at a critical point. President Clinton and I will discuss detailed steps for maintaining close cooperation in resolving the North's nuclear problem," Mr. Kim said.

Mr. Kim said he would seek help on the nuclear issue when he meets Chinese President Jiang Zemin in Seattle later this month at a conference of Asia-Pacific economic leaders.

China is North Korea's last major ally, although ties have weakened since China established diplomatic relations with South Korea.

The United States has warned the North faces international sanctions if it keeps refusing to open its nuclear facilities to inspection by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

North Korea, which denies it

is developing nuclear weapons, cast the only "no" vote last week in a U.S. General Assembly vote urging it to cooperate immediately with the IAEA in implementing the nuclear non-proliferation treaty, to which it is a signatory.

South Korea's Yonhap News Agency said Wednesday U.S. and North Korean officials held working-level talks in New York Tuesday, the first since the U.N. resolution was passed.

Yonhap quoted an informed source as saying the North made no special concessions during the contact, made at North Korea's request.

"But the North Korean request for the meeting is a clear indication of Pyongyang's intention to seek a solution to the nuclear issue through negotiations with the United States," Yonhap quoted the source as saying.

South Korean Defence Minister Kwon Young-Hae told Wednesday's cabinet session there were no immediate signs the North would launch an attack on the South, Mr. Kim's aides said.

South Korean and U.S. officials recently said North Korea had massed 70 per cent of its military force near the tense inter-Korean border and speculated it might launch a conventional attack on the South sparked by hunger and economic frustration.

U.S. and South Korean troops will hold a six-day joint field training exercise next week to exchange the allied forces' defence capability in case North Korea launches a surprise attack on the South.

8 Russian parties scrapped from elections

MOSCOW (AFP) — Russia's Elections Commission pulled eight political parties out of the parliamentary race Wednesday because they failed to meet registration requirements, commission chairman Nikolai Ryabov announced.

The elimination of the fringe parties left 13 official coalitions and parties eligible to battle for seats in the federal assembly set up by President Boris Yeltsin following the armed parliamentary revolt last month.

Commission officials found irregularities in petition lists submitted by the parties. One of which — the People's Union of Russia — was headed by former hardline deputy Sergei Baburin.

Party organisers failed to comply with an electoral rule that requires each group to gather 100,000 signatures of support from at least seven regions of the country.

Mr. Baburin charged Friday that his party offices in Moscow were ransacked by a group of armed men who stole an elections list containing 20,000 signatures.

Commission officials however said that the People's Union had collected 30,000 signatures in Moscow in violation of electoral rules stating that no more than 15,000 signatures can be gathered in one region.

Topping the list of parties vying for seats in the new state Duma, the lower chamber of the parliament, was the pro-Communist Agrarian Party, Powerbase of state and collective farm managers who are opposed to land reform.

The Agrarian Party collected 500,000 signatures of support, twice as many as the pro-Yeltsin Russia's Choice headed by First Deputy Prime Minister Yegor Gaidar and the Party of Russian Unity and Accord led by presidential aide and deputy Prime Minister Sergei Shakhrai.

Mr. Gaidar was on the campaign trail in the west Siberian town of Krasnoyarsk where he was accompanied by chess master Gary Kasparov Wednesday, and told voters there that he would have inflation under control in the next eight to 12 months, Interfax reported.

The parties scrapped from the race include the Constitutional Democrats led by former conservative deputy Mikhail Astarov and the Association of Independent Professionals headed by Yeltsin aide Pyotr Filipov, who said his group would join the Russia's Choice coalition.

The list of 13 parties seeking election included the Women's Union, the Liberal-Democratic Party of ultra-nationalist Vladimir Zhirinovskiy and the Ecologist Party "KEDR."

Petition lists submitted by the Russian Communist Party led by Gennady Zjuganov were found to be in accordance with electoral rules.

Disney to build new theme park in Virginia

WASHINGTON (R) — Walt Disney Corp plans to build a new American history theme park and shopping complex in rural Virginia about 48 kilometres from Washington DC, the Washington Post reported. Early Wednesday editions of the newspaper quoted congressional and business sources as saying the new park would be built in Prince William County, near the civil war battlefield of Manassas. It said an announcement would be made soon. The new park would differ from Disney's other amusement parks in Anaheim, California and Orlando, Florida and would feature an American history and culture theme.

Robber given away by false eye

SAN FRANCISCO (R) — The FBI said it tracked down an alleged robber after he left behind a crucial piece of evidence at a crime scene — his false eye. According to the FBI, Aaron Harris was involved in a shooting incident during a robbery at a house in El Cerrito, about 30 kilometres east of San Francisco, last January. When police arrived at the scene, Harris jumped from a second-storey balcony and the shock as he landed knocked out his false left eye, the FBI said. Investigators found the false eye which contained encoded information unique to Harris, including his name and the hospital where he had been treated. The FBI said federal agents and local police eventually tracked Harris, 25, to a house in nearby Oakland where he was arrested last Friday on a warrant charging him with armed robbery, assault with a deadly weapon, burglary and being an ex-felon in possession of a firearm.

Police search Jackson family compound

LOS ANGELES (R) — Police investigating child sex abuse allegations against pop star Michael Jackson searched the Jackson family compound in the Los Angeles suburb of Encino, an official said Tuesday. Lieutenant John Dunkin, a police department spokesman, would only say that the investigation of Jackson was continuing and "until there is a significant development we will have nothing to report." But a law-enforcement source said investigators Monday executed a search warrant at the walled estate where the singer's father Joe Jackson and mother Katherine live. Police turned up no evidence against Jackson after spending hours scouring the family's mansion, KABC-TV reported. Unmarked police cars met family members who were returning from a funeral for Jackson's grandfather in Phoenix, according to television news reports. KABC-TV quoted an unnamed family associate as saying, "they went in and took a lot of tapes and packed up all kinds of old stuff he left there years ago — because he hasn't been there for years — and they took it out." Jackson has been under investigation since August, when a boy he had befriended accused the pop star of molesting him. Jackson has denied the allegations, and his representatives have contended that the case arose from a botched \$20 million extortion attempt orchestrated by the boy's father.

More women work in Tokyo

TOKYO (AFP) — More than half the women of working age in Tokyo now have a job, showing a marked increase since 1987, according to latest official figures quoted Wednesday in the daily Yomiuri. It said 50.9 per cent of women had a job in October 1992, an increase of 3.4 percentage points compared with the previous survey, which is conducted every five years. Roughly one in five of the female workforce in Tokyo is aged over 55.

Forgetful boss lets money go down the pan

KASSEL, Germany (AFP) — The boss of a German car firm got that sinking feeling when thieves stole 127,000 German marks (\$75,000) he had left behind in a motorway service station toilet. As a precaution, the 30-year-old man had taken the bag with the money into the toilets at Kassel Service Station in central Germany but when he came out he forgot it. By the time he realised his mistake and the police arrived, the money had vanished. He is now offering a 20,000 German mark reward (about \$11,700) for the return of the money.

4 killed near Georgia-Abkhazia front

MOSCOW (AFP) — Four Georgian policemen patrolling near the Inguri River separating Abkhazia from the rest of Georgia were shot dead in an attack by a group of rebel fighters, Interfax News Agency said Wednesday.

The attack was carried out by "saboteurs" including Abkhazian troops and rebels loyal to the ousted president, Zviad Gamsakhurdia, who fled to Abkhazia last weekend after government forces captured the western city of Zugdidi, his former stronghold.

The four policemen were shot at point-blank range and the incident highlighted tensions in the area.

Georgia massed troops and armour Wednesday along the border with Abkhazia and said it planned to recapture the breakaway republic, ITAR-TASS said, despite a warning from Russia that renewed hostilities would have major consequences.

sequences.

Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze meanwhile held a second secret meeting with Admiral Eduard Baltin, commander of the Black Sea Fleet, and confirmed afterwards that fleet forces were helping "re-establish order" in western Georgia, Interfax said.

Unnamed Georgian Defence Ministry sources cited by ITAR-TASS said the situation in and around the western city of Zugdidi, the former base of rebel troops, was "extremely tense."

The city was captured by Georgian troops Saturday but the news agency said rebel units which fled with Mr. Gamsakhurdia into Abkhazia last weekend continued "daring raids" against Georgian government forces that "leave dead bodies in their wake."

Abkhazian officials said Georgia was concentrating a "large amount" of armour and personnel along the Inguri Riv-

er that defines the Abkhazian border and Georgian officials said Abkhazia was doing the same, news agencies reported.

Mr. Shevardnadze, who returned to Tbilisi late Tuesday following his talks with Adm. Baltin in the Western port city of Poti. Sidelined a question on whether Georgian forces would enter Abkhazia but said he hoped to resolve tensions there through negotiation.

"We shall try once again to resolve all problems connected with Abkhazia by political means," ITAR-TASS quoted him as saying.

The Georgian leader vowed Sunday to retake Abkhazia "either through political negotiations or by armed force."

He has made the assertion on several occasions since the capture on Sept. 27 by Abkhazian forces of the republic's capital, Sukhumi, which marked an end to 14-month war that cost some 3,000 lives.

Mr. Steel said it was too early to say what caused the accident and his main concern was to deal with the injured and contact relatives. None of the victims was identified and police gave an emergency number as 0227.783053.

The tourists were on a day trip to Canterbury and to Leeds Castle, near the town of Maidstone. The coach is owned by the West London-based Travellers Coach Company.

The accident occurred in driving rain and strong winds. There were also reports of fog on the high-speed motorway, no other vehicles appeared to have been involved.

12 dead in U.K. tourist bus crash

LONDON (R) — Twelve people were killed and many others injured Wednesday when a bus carrying 44 American tourists skidded off an English highway in atrocious weather and plunged down an embankment.

The coach, which had a British driver and a British guide aboard, was travelling from London to the cathedral city of Canterbury, when it veered off the M2 near the town of Faversham in southeast England.

"We've now got all the dead and injured off the coach," police spokesman John Steel said. "The number of dead, I am sorry to say, has now risen to 12."

Mr. Steel said it was too early to say what caused the accident and his main concern was to deal with the injured and contact relatives. None of the victims was identified and police gave an emergency number as 0227.783053.

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Bhutto inspects fire-ravaged parliament

ISLAMABAD (AFP) — Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto inspected parliament here Wednesday, saying a judicial commission would be set up to investigate the blaze which reduced much of the four-storey building to rubble.

Ms. Bhutto said she had asked the Interior Ministry to draw up a list of potential suspects of arson.

"The judicial inquiry will help determine the cause," Ms. Bhutto said.

She said a parliamentary committee would conduct a separate inquiry into the fire which took eight hours to control, and caused millions of dollars in damage.

It came ahead of Saturday's crucial vote by members of parliament and four provincial assemblies to elect the country's new president.

The parliament building was a "symbol of democracy and supremacy of the constitution," said Acting President Wasim Sajjad.

Mr. Sajjad, 52, is one of six presidential candidates.

Visiting the complex built seven years ago at a cost of \$22 million, he described the incident as a "national tragedy."

Ms. Bhutto said the fire would not upset normal government functioning or the business of parliament, which would carry on at an old assembly hall elsewhere in the capital.

Chief Election Commissioner Naimuddin said presidential elections would be held on schedule.

It took army, navy, air force and civil firefighters eight hours late Tuesday to control the blaze which wrecked the main parliament hall, the visitors' galleries and the diplomatic enclosure.

Engineers said costly repairs would take months, possibly a year to complete.

VACANCY

Acquisition Specialist

USAID is seeking a qualified candidate to fill a position as an acquisition specialist to work in its regional Contracting Office. This is a specialist position requiring a significant knowledge of U.S. government procurement and contracting procedures and regulations (Federal Acquisition Regulations) covering the total acquisition process. The salary for this position will be based on prior work experience, qualifications and salary history.

DESIRED OR REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS:

1. The completion of the secondary school is required. Some collegiate study in the field of business administration, commerce, accounting and international trade is desirable.
2. Four to six years of progressively responsible professional acquisition/assistance experience is required.
3. Prior knowledge of U.S. government acquisition regulations governing procurement and contract procedures is required.
4. Excellent command of the English and Arabic languages — both writing and speaking — is a requirement.

Interested Jordanian candidates who believe they have the required qualifications to fill this position may apply, in writing, submitting and application to the USAID Executive Office together with appropriate supporting documentation no later than Nov. 23, 1993. Application forms are available at the receptionist at the front gate of the American embassy. The completed applications should be sent in a sealed envelope to the Executive Office, USAID, American embassy, Amman.

Trudeau assails Reagan, Thatcher in Memoirs

OTTAWA (R) — Former Canadian Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau said in his memoirs that Ronald Reagan and Margaret Thatcher made the cold war worse with their ultra-conservative views.

Mr. Trudeau, a flamboyant Quebec lawyer who dominated Canadian politics from 1968 to 1984, said he had "fierce exchanges" with Britain's Thatcher at international summits where "she often acted as Reagan's spokesperson in articulating a very conservative viewpoint."

"By 1983, partly as a result of the rigidly anti-Soviet stance taken by Mr. Reagan and his ideological soulmate Margaret Thatcher, the cold war had moved into one of its worst phases," Mr. Trudeau, 74, said in his book.

"The Soviets had withdrawn from all the arms control negotiations," he added, explaining his globe-trotting one-man efforts to save humanity from armageddon in 1984.

Mr. Reagan was obsessed with communism and was unable to hold a thoughtful policy discussion, Mr. Trudeau recalls.

"His view of the world was largely anecdotal," Mr. Trudeau said. As an example, he cites a story Reagan once told French President Francois Mitterrand about a priest trained by the KGB to infiltrate the Hollywood Actors Equity Union.

"Mitterrand came to me and said: 'What planet is that man living on?'" Mr. Trudeau said.

The book, entitled simply *Memoirs* and showing on its cover an informal Trudeau in a cowhide jacket, is being published in Canada by McClelland Stewart of Toronto. It will be published in the United States early next year by St. Martin's Press.

Done for a television series on Mr. Trudeau's life to be aired in January by the Canadian Broadcasting Corp., the book was eagerly awaited by Canadians who continue to be mesmerised by a man they often criticised as too aloof and intellectual.

The memoirs dedicate only one paragraph to his stormy marriage to Margaret Sinclair, a flower child of the 60s who was half his age and who left him to dabble with drugs and Hollywood lovers.

Mr. Trudeau, who was reluctant to toe the U.S. line on world matters, criticises his conservative successor, Brian Mulroney, for being "too subservient" to Washington.

In 1976, Mr. Trudeau and Margaret visited Cuba and spent a day skin-diving with Fidel Castro.

"In private, in contrast to his public speeches, (Castro) was so quiet-spoken that you had to lean forward to understand him," Mr. Trudeau said.

"Both sides of his personality were quite magnetic — the powerful orator and the soft-spoken, subdued revolutionary with only the beard as a reminder that he was a radical."

But Mr. Castro lied to him about the number of Cuban

troops in Angola, and Mr. Trudeau cut off aid to Cuba when he got home.

While his opposition to the Vietnam War caused frictions with Washington, Mr. Trudeau said he maintained good personal relations with President Richard Nixon.

"In contrast to his firm public presence, in private he was always stiff and perspiring, and occasionally had to ask (Henry) Kissinger to explain certain things," Mr. Trudeau said. "He was obviously not at ease in his skin."

He said Canadians owed much to President Gerald Ford, who invited Canada, a middle power, to join the group of seven leading industrialised nations in 1976.

Mr. Trudeau said relations with Israel became strained in 1978 when he flatly turned down pressure by Israel's then-Prime Minister Menachem Begin to move the Canadian embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.

He felt "shocked and betrayed" by Indira Gandhi, who assured him that Canadian reactor technology would not be used to produce plutonium, only to find out this was the case a few months later when India exploded a nuclear device.

Mr. Trudeau said his efforts to defuse East-West tensions were later taken up by Mikhail Gorbachev who single-handedly put an end to the cold war.

"Sadly, once Gorbachev be-

Argentina coach under pressure to produce

BUENOS AIRES (Agencies) — Argentina resumed training Tuesday for the second leg of their World Cup playoff against Australia amid speculation that national coach Alfio Basile may step down after the match.

Following the 1-1 first leg result in Sydney on Oct. 31, a scoreless draw next week will be enough for Argentina to secure a berth in the 1994 finals in the United States.

Yet Basile — whose contract runs out after the Australia match — knows his future depends not only on qualifying but also on how well his team performs.

Basile admitted he had contemplated resigning when Argentina conceded the fourth goal in September's shock 5-0 defeat at home to Colombia.

His decision to hang on was widely attributed to the support of Argentine Football Association (AFA) President Julio Grondona.

On Tuesday Grondona again gave Basile a vote of confidence, but another AFA director was less supportive, telling the daily Pagina 12: "We first need to see exactly how we qualify."

Argentines crave a return to the glory days of 1978 and 1986

when, playing adventurous and exciting soccer, the national side twice won the World Cup.

Basile's record — including Copa America triumphs in 1991 and this year during a 31-match unbeaten run — would surely guarantee most coaches a renewed contract.

But in Argentina, where style counts for everything, the ends do not always justify the means and the national team were criticised in the press for lacklustre performances.

Although Basile recalled former captain and national idol Diego Maradona to the fold for the first leg in Sydney, the team laboured and looked short of ideas against the physical but inexperienced Australians.

With eight days remaining until the match that will seal Argentina's World Cup fate, and former coach Carlos Bilardo waiting in the wings, Basile is under no illusions as to the task ahead of him.

Meanwhile Maradona and fellow Argentinian international Claudio Ruggieri have ended their bitter feud.

The row began when Ruggieri, the former captain, said in June he did not want Maradona, who had just been sacked by Spanish club Sevilla, to

be picked for the South American Championship.

Argentina went on to win the tournament without Maradona.

But the pair, who both play against Australia in their World Cup decider next week, have now agreed to bury their differences.

Ruggieri did not play in the first leg 1-1 draw against Australia in Sydney. Maradona's comeback game for Argentina, because he was suspended.

Australia believe they can make Argentina cry next week by pulling off one of the biggest upsets in World Cup history.

"They're brimming with confidence," said local physio Pedro Ruz who has been helping keep the socceros fit.

"They feel they have nothing to lose."

Australia lost 3-2 to Chile's top club Colo Colo in a warm-up match last week but only Captain Paul Wade and defender Mehmet Durakovic.

Milan Ivanovic and Tony Vidmar had played in the 1-1 draw with Argentina in Sydney.

Aston Villa goalkeeper Mark Bosnich and Strasbourg forward Frank Farina have yet to join the squad who leave for Buenos Aires in four days.

Australia's assistant coach said goalkeeper Mark Bosnich should be released by his professional team, Aston Villa of England, so he can play for the Australian national team in the decisive soccer World Cup qualifier.

Raul Blanco said Tuesday that Aston Villa must abide by the regulation set by FIFA, the soccer world ruling body, that orders clubs to release their foreign players when needed by their national teams.

The 21-year-old Bosnich was forced to leave the field in Saturday's Premier League game at Arsenal because of a hip injury, and the club's rules state that any player being released for international duty must have played the full 90 minutes of the previous game for his club.

"FIFA says otherwise," Blanco said in a telephone interview with the Associated Press.

The team had the day off Tuesday, and the players were taken to a tour of the ski resorts near Santiago.

"The boys are doing fine, and they are very happy we came here," Blanco said. He said there are no injuries in the team.

Grant blunder costs Celtic dearly

GLASGOW, Scotland (AFP)

— A Peter Grant own goal 18 minutes from time cost Celtic a third straight victory under new manager Lou Macari at Aberdeen Tuesday.

An opportunistic goal from stand-in striker Brian O'Neil had put the revitalised Celts ahead in the 52nd minutes and they looked like ending Aberdeen's unbeaten league record at Pittodrie until Grant blundered.

Scotland striker Ecin Jess brilliantly turned Dariusz Wdowczyk, crossed into the six yard box and watched in delight as Grant diverted it past Pat Bonner in the Celtic goal.

The scrappy equaliser was in keeping with the rest of a poor quality game.

In a substandard first half, the only clear chance fell to Jess, who controlled a Scott Booth cross and hit a low shot which Bonner held easily.

But things picked up seven minutes after half-time, with a farcical opening goal, created by a Paul Byrne crossfield ball to John Collins.

As the midfielder controlled the ball, Stephen Wright slid in with a pass-back to Theo Snelders which skidded through the goalkeeper's legs, leaving youngster O'Neil to stab home from two yards.

Aberdeen fought furiously to salvage something from a poor performance and after Grant unwittingly came to the rescue, they should have won.

A Lee Richardson shot was deflected over the bar in the 75th minute then. In the dying minutes, Robert Connor delivered a perfect cross and substitute Duncan Shearer headed wide.

Paul Lambert scored his first goal for Motherwell to sink St. Johnstone, and put his club joint top with Aberdeen. The two sides clash at Aberdeen Saturday.

The vital goal was a well worked effort four minutes after the break when Dolan Griffin and Philip O'Donnell combined to create the chance for Lambert.

The visitors looked dead and buried when George McGeechie was sent off on 81 minutes.

Garrison-Jackson ousts Fernandez in Philadelphia

PHILADELPHIA (R) — An in-form Zina Garrison-Jackson proved too much for a rusty Mary Joe Fernandez in a duel between doubles partners at the Virginia Slims of Philadelphia women's tennis tournament.

Garrison-Jackson, runner-up to Martina Navratilova last week in Oakland, defeated fellow-American Fernandez, the third seed, 6-4, 6-1 in a first-round match.

In other first-round matches, fourth seed Argentine Gabriela Sabatini routed American Angelica Gavaldon 6-2 6-1, seventh seed Mary Pierce of France defeated Croatian Iva Majoli 6-0 7-5, and Anne

Grossman dealt fellow-American Tracy Austin another setback in her comeback 4-6 6-1 6-4.

Fernandez, playing in only her second event since having surgery in September for an abdominal problem that forced her out of the U.S. Open, was two points from going up 4-2 in the first set before Garrison-Jackson charged back.

A service break in the ninth game helped Garrison-Jackson clinch the first set and she was on her way.

"We know each other so well, it's just a matter of who's playing well at the time," Garrison-Jackson said. "It's as if we were already

moving to the shot before the other person hits it."

Austin, who became the youngest inductee into the International Tennis Federation's Hall of Fame last year, is trying a comeback after being hampered by an assortment of injuries. Her record this year in six tournaments is 6-6.

Austin said she is planning to return to the tour full-time next year.

"I feel that until I start to play full-time again, I'll always have lapses of concentration like I did tonight," she said. "I felt I had many chances in the third set, but I couldn't capitalise on them."

Frankfurt coach taunts rivals Bayern

BONN (R) — Eintracht Frankfurt coach Klaus Toppmoller fired some barbed comments in Bayern Munich's direction after his side opened a five-point lead at the top of the Bundesliga at the weekend.

A home win against Borussia Dortmund and a bitter away defeat for second-placed Bayern at struggling Nuremberg assured Eintracht of the unofficial title of "autumn champions" with two fixtures left of the season's first half.

"After Munich beat Kaiserslautern 4-0 last week, all Germany was chanting 'Bayern, Bayern, Bayern,'" said Toppmoller.

"But when Norwich City put them out of the UEFA Cup, it looks like Bayern learnt English. Now it's 'bye bye Bayern.'"

Toppmoller had seen his side's sparkling start to the season become bogged down with the loss of Ghanaian star striker Anthony Yeboah to injury, while Bayern stole the

headlines and seemed to be steamrolling inexorably towards a 13th title.

"Everyone was talking about a crisis again," he said.

"But if anyone had told me before the season that we'd be autumn champions, and without Yeboah, I'd have been lighting candles in church."

However, Toppmoller was noticeably reluctant to wax lyrical about the current form of his side, which has lost its sparkle without Yeboah, and

only beat Dortmund 2-0 Saturday thanks to two disputed goals in the last seven minutes.

Eintracht's fans saved most of their cheers for the news that Bayern and third-placed Werder Bremen were losing.

If Toppmoller showed a touch of bitterness, Munich trainer Erich Ribbeck was almost speechless after his side's lame 2-0 away defeat to local rivals Nuremberg proved that Norwich had burst Bayern's bubble.

Futre joins Marseille clear-out

MARSEILLE (AFP) — Olympique Marseille, under pressure to cut their debt mountain, have sold a second player to an Italian club.

Reggiana, second from bottom of the Italian first division, have agreed an undisclosed fee for Portuguese forward Paolo Futre.

Marseille, reported to have debts of around \$80 million, sold Croatian forward Alen Boksic to Lazio of Rome for \$13 million last week.

Marseille Vice-President Jean-Louis Levrain admitted they had also been approached about defenders Basile Boli and Marcel Desailly.

The French League's financial watchdog has postponed for at least another week any decision on Marseille's future after its accountants asked for more time to study an independent audit.

League President Noel Le Graet is known to want a fireproof ultimatum to force Marseille owner Bernard Tapie to quit football.

Futre, 27, joined Marseille from Benfica on a four-year contract in June but the French side, barred from Europe for allegedly trying to fix a league match, are in dire straits.

Marseille have sold Futre before paying Benfica in full. There were conflicting reports of the size of the transfer fee and how much they owed the Lisbon side.

The club admitted last month they had paid Benfica only the first instalment of \$90,000 on Futre's \$2.7 million transfer. They declined to comment on Wednesday's reports they owed \$2.5 million of a \$5.4 million fee.

Marseille decided to sell when Serbian Dragan Jokovic, back after a loan with Verona in Italy,

IOC: Atlanta plan lacks safety net

ATLANTA (R) — The International Olympic Committee (IOC) expressed some misgivings about plans for the 1996 summer games, saying local organisers have no government safety net to protect them if private fund-raising efforts fall behind.

Richard Pound, chairman of the IOC Coordinating Commission, said Atlanta appeared to be on track to raise enough money to stage the games, particularly in view of the NBC Television network's agreement to pay \$456 million for the rights to televise the event in the United States.

"I'm pretty confident that

the overall goals that we're looking at are achievable," Pound said during a news conference following two days of commission meetings here.

But Pound said a lack of government funding guarantees for the Atlanta Games' financial plans makes the planning process "nervous wracking."

"You don't have a safety net that many other organising committees in other parts of the world might have in place, whereby if you fall a little short of your goals, somebody will back-stop you and make up the difference," he said.

Atlanta will derive all of its

funding from private financing — television rights fees, corporate sponsorships, merchandising and ticket sales.

"As far as other sources, there ain't none," Pound said. The Coordinating Commission oversees the planning process, making sure the Atlanta group is on track to stage the games.

Pound said Atlanta had made significant progress in planning the actual sports programme of the games and he expects to see a day-by-day schedule of competition by August.

Sampras starts in style in Antwerp

ANTWERP, Belgium (AP) — Pete Sampras started the final tune-up for the World Championships with an easy win at the European Community Championships, Boris Becker just staged off a defeat that would have ended his ATP season.

Sampras, seeking to cap a great season with a World Championship title next week, quickly overcame some problems with his serve to coast past fellow American David Wheaton, 6-3, 6-2.

Becker, who needs to reach the final of the \$1.1 million event here to be able to defend his World Championship title, rallied from behind for an unlikely 2-6, 6-3, 7-5 win over Australian Jason Stoltenberg.

"I am lucky I can continue," said Becker, seeded fourth here.

Stoltenberg, serving for the match at 5-4 in the third set, appeared to hit a perfect ace for a 30-0 lead, which would have brought him within 2 points of victory. But umpire Paulo Pereira decided to overrule the linesman.

The Australian was so shaken by the decision that he lost the next four points of the game, and all the remaining games to keep Becker's chances alive in the tournament.

Wheaton, ranked 54th in the world, kept abreast until 3-3 in the first set. But Sampras, ranked first in the world and at the Antwerp event here, wrapped up nine of the next 11 games — no sweat.

"It was a matter of a couple of good returns and serving a little better," he said afterwards.

Second-seeded Michael Stich and Goran Ivanisevic, who won two of his last three tournaments, start their quest for the gold-and-diamond racket Wednesday.

In other matches Tuesday, Chuck Adams beat fellow-American David Witt 6-2, 6-2, and Swede Magnus Gustafsson ousted Australia's Mark Woodford 6-3, 6-1.

Apart from Becker, Ivanisevic and France's Cedric Pioline still have a shot at qualifying for the World Championships, which brings together the top eight players of the season.

Six of the eight slots are already clinched by Sampras, Jim Courier, Sergi Bruguera, Stich, Stefan Edberg and Andrei Medvedev.

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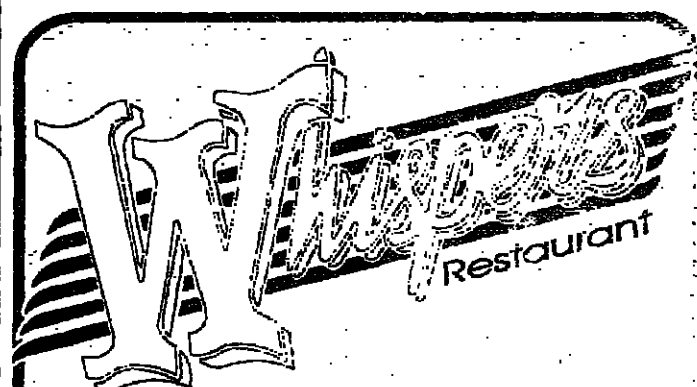
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WITH OMAR SHARIF
TAMAR HUSCH
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WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠987652 CAK7 ♠842 ♠9
Partner opens the bidding with one no trump. What do you respond?

Q.2—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠1 CAQ763 CAK2 ♠J1063
Partner opens the bidding with three spades. What action do you take?

Q.3—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠A762 ♠Void ♠1082 CAKQ763
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♣ Pass
7 What do you bid now?

Q.4—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠9862 ♠Q107 ♠J82 CA76
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♣ Pass
2 What do you respond?

Q.5—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠4 CAQ5 CAJ107653 CAJ98
Partner opens the bidding with one spade. What do you respond?

Q.6—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠AKJ6 CAKQ972 ♠Void ♠1064
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♣ Pass
2 ♠ Pass 2 ♣ Pass
2 What do you bid now?

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CONCORD
Tel.: 677420
CONCORD '1'
Harrison Ford — in
The Fugitive
Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30
Tc **CONCORD '2'** in
The Prince of Tides
Shows: 12:30, 3:15, 6:00, 8:15, 10:15

PLAZA
Tel.: 699238
Eric Roberts — in
Best of the Best II
Shows: 12:30, 3:15, 5:00, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30

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مكتبة من الأدب

World Bank says PLO politics could delay aid

QUEENSTOWN, Maryland (Agencies) — International development aid promised the Palestinians in the Israeli-occupied territories could be delayed because of political considerations, a World Bank vice president has said.

Craig Koch-Weser said he was concerned that the Palestinian Emergency Development and Reconstruction Agency (PEDRA) had not been set up yet to channel the financial aid into regional development projects.

"We are disappointed because the creation (of PEDRA) has been dominated so far by political considerations," Mr. Koch-Weser said Tuesday. He said there was a "real risk" that the aid might be delayed, adding that donors and the World Bank were more than ready to do their part.

Mr. Koch-Weser said it was imperative that PEDRA have its priority projects ready when the consultative committee on the aid package first meets in Paris Dec. 16.

"It's still possible the talent and expertise are there, but will the political decision be made?" he said.

The World Bank official said he hoped development in the occupied territories would be well under way by the time the Palestinians hold their elections in July.

The World Bank has approved \$50 million in emergency aid towards the estimated \$2.4 billion the Palestinians need to gain viable economic footing. The international community has pledged \$2.1 billion so far.

The development aid was promised shortly after Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) signed a peace agreement Sept. 15 in Washington calling for self rule in Gaza and the West Bank town of Jericho.

"This is simply crucial. Tunis must understand it cannot wait," said Mr. Koch-Weser. Politics, so far, has dominated appointments at the newly formed PEDRA.

Without the naming of independent technical staff to implement economic development strategies for the occupied territories, emergency assistance from the international community will be delayed, he said.

"What is absolutely critical is that the Palestinian leadership create a credible autonomous economic institution and does not play to the political structure," Mr. Koch-Weser said.

Without technical staff in place, delays would prevent international agencies from providing financial assistance for badly needed relief work and emergency school, road,

water and power repairs in the occupied territories, he said.

Mr. Koch-Weser warned political dissent among Palestinians may mount, causing problems for the July 1994 local elections, unless there is rapid economic improvement in living conditions that the aid can provide.

In Brussels, PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat said the occupied territories needed more than \$13 billion for development and another \$10 billion in foreign investment until the year 2000.

Mr. Arafat told a meeting of Belgian businessmen the territories had massive infrastructure needs and urged firms to participate in development projects.

"Our success in establishing our national economy will be the basis for the success of the wider project of establishing a developed regional economy," he said in a speech.

Needs set out in a Palestinian economic development plan included housing, ports, airports, water treatment for agriculture and desalination units.

Mr. Arafat said he had discussed the problem of getting drinking water to the Gaza Strip with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, and raised the possibility of using water siphoned into the Sinai desert from the Suez Canal.



Her Royal Highness Princess Sarvath Wednesday attends a dinner hosted by the Rotary and Inner Wheel Clubs (Petra photo)

Princess Sarvath pays tribute to YWMA

AMMAN — In the presence of HRH Crown Prince El-Hassan, HRH Princess Sarvath El-Hassan, Chairwoman of the Young Women Muslim Association (YWMA), patronised a dinner party hosted by the Rotary and Inner Wheel Clubs at Amman's Marriott Hotel on Tuesday, 9th November 1993. The proceeds were earmarked for the benefit of YWMA Centre for Special Education of which HRH chairs the Board of Trustees. It is noteworthy to mention

here that the said Centre undertakes to provide special education and vocational training for 175 mild to moderate mentally retarded children.

In an address delivered by HRH on this occasion, Princess Sarvath El-Hassan reflected appreciation of the noble and humanitarian aims espoused by both the Rotary and Inner Wheel Clubs. HRH also gave a brief survey of the Centre's foundation and subsequent development and pointed out the fact that

it is considered to be both a regional model and a centre of excellence particularly within the framework of the comprehensive nature of the services rendered by it in the domain of special education that stretches from pre-school stage to vocational rehabilitation.

The ultimate aim of this endeavour is, HRH said, to "help the less fortunate amongst us take their rightful place with dignity and pride within our Jordanian family."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Bashir says foreigners plan invasion

KHARTOUM (R) — Sudanese President Omar Hassan Al Bashir has said unnamed foreign groups hostile to Islamic rule in Sudan were planning to invade. In a speech in the north, carried on state television on Tuesday night, Lieutenant-General Bashir did not name the groups but said his government would not be pressured into abandoning Islamic law. "We will get stronger and stronger and will continue the implementation of the Islamic programme," Gen. Bashir told citizens who had come to swear allegiance to him. Gen. Bashir said Sudan was under a military, economic and media siege as part of an international plot against Islam. The same plot was targeting Muslims in Libya, Iraq and Bosnia, he said.

Court declares Shonekan regime illegal

LAGOS (AFP) — A Lagos high court on Wednesday declared Nigeria's government illegal, sparking street jubilation among thousands of supporters of Moshood Abiola, the presumed winner of annulled presidential elections. The judge ruled that the outgoing military junta of General Ibrahim Babangida did not have the authority to install the interim government headed by Ernest Shonekan. The judge said that decree 59 of 1993, in which Gen. Babangida divested himself of legislative functions in August, had it impossible for the former head of state to promulgate decree no 61 installing his successor. "Shonekan is not competent to occupy the office he is currently occupying. Even if I find Shonekan's appointment valid, decree 61 did not create the position of secretaries," or government ministers, ruled Judge Dolapo Akinsanya.

Palestinian arrested for gun-running

ASSIUT (AFP) — A policeman was shot dead in the southern Egyptian town of Assiut Wednesday in an attack believed to be the work of Islamic militants, police said. A Palestinian and an Egyptian were meanwhile arrested on charges of gun-running for the militants waging war on the government since March 1992. Three assailants gunned down the policeman, Sayyed Ahmad Ibrahim Alzawi, who was in plainclothes and preparing to go home, police said. They fled after an exchange of fire with two other policemen in the town near Assiut. In the Sinai peninsula of eastern Egypt, police said they arrested Sayyed Tawfik Hegazi, a Palestinian, and his Egyptian accomplice Al Badawi Sabah Mohammad on charges of smuggling arms for the Islamic militants. The Palestinian allegedly infiltrated the country from Libya.

Prince Charles visits UAE

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Prince Charles arrived in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) on Wednesday for the last stop in a Gulf tour that has also taken him to Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, officials said. The heir to the British throne was met at the airport by Abu Dhabi's Crown Prince and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayed Al Nahayan and other senior officials. Prince Charles will hold talks in Abu Dhabi on trade and other issues before visiting an international air show in Dubai, where around 70 British companies are displaying advanced jets and other air defence systems.

Botha to open Bahrain embassy

MANAMA (R) — South African Foreign Minister P. W. Botha will visit Bahrain to inaugurate his country's first embassy in the Gulf, according to a Gulf newspaper. The daily Al Ayam said on Wednesday that Mr. Botha would also hold talks with Bahraini officials on bilateral relations. It gave no date for his arrival and there was no official confirmation.

Israel airport workers delay flights

TEL AVIV (R) — Airport workers prevented flights from leaving Israel's main international airport for four hours Wednesday over a pay dispute, airport officials said. Workers demanding wage and pension hikes allowed planes to land at Ben-Gurion but prevented departures. The action ended when Israeli Transport Minister Yisrael Kessar promised to mediate personally between the airport and its employees. It was the second time in less than a month that traffic has been disrupted at the Tel Aviv airport by angry workers.

Iran hopeful over Iraqi visit

NICOSIA (R) — Iran said on Wednesday it was optimistic that an upcoming visit by a senior Iraqi official would help resolve the problem of prisoners still held from the 1980-88 Iran-Iraq war. Foreign Ministry spokesman Mahmoud Mohammadi, quoted by Iran's IRNA news agency, also confirmed that a U.N. team would visit Iran soon to check reports that the Iraqi army attacked Shiite Muslims in southern Iraq with chemical arms. Mr. Mohammadi said Iran hoped that Saad Abdul Majied Al Faisal, senior undersecretary at the Iraqi Foreign Ministry, would bring a report on the fate of Iranian prisoners.

Rabin wants Pollard sentence reduced

TEL AVIV (AP) — Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin has asked President Bill Clinton to cut the life sentence of spy Jonathan Pollard to 10 years, Israel army radio said Wednesday. Mr. Pollard, a former U.S. Navy intelligence analyst, was convicted of treason for selling classified documents to Israel and sentenced to a life term in 1987. The radio report said Mr. Rabin requested the sentence reduction in a recent letter to Mr. Clinton. If Clinton approves, Mr. Pollard could be freed immediately, with time off for good behaviour, it said.

Kuwait says guards clashed with Iraqis

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait reported an exchange of heavy fire between Kuwaiti and Iraqi forces on Wednesday, a week after one of their most serious post-Gulf war border incidents.

Iraq denied any shooting took place. U.N. military observers would not comment. The Interior Ministry, in a statement carried by the official Kuwait News Agency, said Iraqi forces opened "heavy fire on a Kuwaiti observation outpost east of Al Abdali."

"The (Kuwaiti) outpost returned the fire after calling in reinforcements," it said. No casualties were reported.

The ministry statement said Kuwait had informed the U.N. Iraq-Kuwait Observer Mission (UNIKOM) stationed in the demilitarised zone established between the two countries following the 1991 Gulf war.

UNIKOM spokesman Abdul Latif Kabbaj told Reuters: "I cannot confirm or deny the incident." He declined further comment.

Danish minister ends visit pledging support

AMMAN (Petra) — Danish Minister of Development Cooperation Helle Degn Wednesday concluded a 24-hour visit to Jordan voicing her country's political and economic support for the Middle East peace process.

Mrs. Degn, who visited Jordan in the course of a tour of the region to discuss the refugees problem with concerned governments and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), said Denmark fully realises Jordan's heavy responsibilities and services for the Palestinian refugees.

Mrs. Degn said all aspects of the Middle East problem, including the future of the refugees, should be settled if peace is to be comprehensive and involve all parties.

Referring to the general elections in Jordan, Mrs. Degn expressed her delight to see Jordan enjoying political stability and following democracy which she said is important for development.

She said that she was especially happy to see women voting in the elections and more happy to see a woman elected to sit in Parliament.

Mrs. Degn said her country would contribute more to the settlement of the refugee problem within the context of the European Community and Scandinavian group of nations.

Mrs. Degn held talks with Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Talal Al Hassan, who outlined Jordan's stand vis-à-vis U.N. resolution 242 and 338 and its demand for a comprehensive peace.

Mrs. Degn, who visited Lebanon and Syria, left for Egypt and then the occupied Arab lands.

Syria, Lebanon urged to join multilateral talks

WASHINGTON (USIA) — A State Department official Nov. 9 has urged Syria and Lebanon to join in the upcoming multilateral talks on the environment in Cairo, saying they would greatly benefit from the Nov. 15-16 meeting.

Dr. Thomas Miller, director of the State Department's Office of Israeli and Arabic Affairs and the chief of the U.S. environmental delegation to the talks, expressed his hope that the two countries, "conspicuous by their absence... will see the benefits of participation... and will join the rest of their regional colleagues in participating in the multilateral talks in the future."

The talks, he said, "have taken on enough of a momentum... that I would regard them as definitely an ongoing proposition."

Mr. Miller discussed environmental issues with interlocutors in Cairo during a USIA WorldNet satellite television programme linking the Egyptian capital with Washington. Joining him in the discussion in Cairo were Wagdi Riad, senior environment editor for Egypt's daily 'Al-Ahram', and Dr. Morsi Saadeh, host of the weekly political talk show, 'The Open Forum.'

Mr. Miller emphasised that in the multilateral environmental discussions, scientists, who speak a "common language" — and not politicians or diplomats — unite to deal with such "real world problems" as desertification and hazardous waste management.

Yemeni leadership rift appears to ease

SANAA (Agencies) — A rift in the leadership has apparently eased after President Ali Abdullah Saleh called for "give and take" to preserve national unity.

His rival, Vice-President Ali Salem Al Beedh, said Tuesday his Yemen Socialist Party (YSP) was ready to cooperate to end the crisis which had threatened the three-year-old union of North and South Yemen.

Trouble between the former presidents of the constituent states began in late August when Mr. Beedh, disgruntled with Mr. Saleh's handling of the government, returned to his political stronghold in Aden, the former South Yemen capital.

North and South Yemen united on May 22, 1990. Mr. Saleh and Mr. Beedh formed a coalition government to complete the unification process and institute democratic reform.

After the unified country's first parliamentary elections on April 27 produced a surprise victory for a fundamentalist Muslim grouping of tribes, including Mr. Saleh's, Mr. Beedh boycotted the presidency, protesting about the country's poor security situation and economy.

In October, unknown assailants fired upon two of Mr. Beedh's sons and shot dead one of his nephews. The shootings have been attributed

to personal and not political motivations.

Since returning to Aden, Mr. Beedh refused to take the oath of office as vice-president and snubbed visiting dignitaries such as French President Francois Mitterrand and Oman's Sultan Qaboos.

On Tuesday night, Mr. Saleh ordered the country's military forces not to make any moves that may be misconstrued as a provocation or establish any further military checkpoints between the two former capitals.

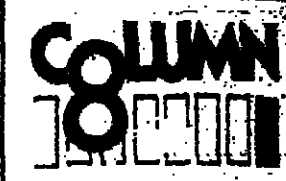
In an appeal to the socialists on state-run radio and television, he said "all issues at stake can be negotiated, with a give and take guided by the commitment to the unity."

He said that democracy must not be tampered with nor must there be any hint of a resort to violence, "principles from which none of us can deviate."

At the same time Mr. Beedh told his followers in Aden that the YSP was "willing to respond to and cooperate with efforts by the people, the government and the opposition parties."

At the height of tension last week, shopkeepers refused to sell goods amid fears that last December's riots, which left over 100 people dead, might be repeated.

Since August the rial has fallen some 25 per cent in unofficial trading against the U.S. dollar.



AMA official apologises for Clinton remark

NEW YORK (R) — A top official with the American Medical Association (AMA) apologised for referring to "the president and her husband" during a panel discussion on the Clinton health plan. The remark by Dr. Daniel Johnson, speaker of the House of Delegates of the AMA, its policy making body, was made to about 100 doctors and spouses at a Monday night meeting of the Fairfield County Medical Association in Stamford, Connecticut. "Part of our solution to what Mr. Clinton — or what I might say the president and her husband — might be able to do about this will come out in the brief comments I want to make."

Dr. Johnson told the group before starting a slide show on the AMA's views on health care. The remarks were first reported by Medical News Network, and confirmed by Dr. Johnson. Dr. Johnson told Reuters in a telephone interview "it was dumb to make any kind of comment that would in any way be disrespectful to either one of them and I regret that."

He said the remark was "insensitive" but did not reflect any policy rift between the association, which represents doctors, and the Clinton administration or first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton. "We have here a very effective first lady who has been given a very important role by her husband and that's unusual. But there's no question about who the president is," he said. At a briefing with reporters Monday, Mrs. Clinton said that doctors were generally supportive of the plan. "If you ever look at the issues we have narrowed down with the AMA, I don't think there is any reason to talk to physicians or any of the other health care professionals," she said.

Clinton's hog party for political odd couple

WASHINGTON (R) — President Clinton and his wife Hillary threw an engagement party Tuesday night for a political odd couple — Clinton campaign strategist James Carville and Bush campaign strategist Mary Matalin. Democrat Carville and Republican Matalin, who pursued a romance even as they sought to smash the hopes of their respective bosses in the 1992 presidential campaign, are to be married in New Orleans on Nov. 25. The Clintons invited about 50 guests to a private White House party for the couple that preceded the televised NAR-TA debate between Vice President Al Gore and billionaire Ross Perot. Music was provided by informed Sources, a bluesgrass band that includes ABC Television political commentator Hal Bruno, moderator of last year's campaign debate between Mr. Gore, then Vice President Dan Quayle and Mr. Perot's running mate Admiral James Stockdale. And further belaboring the point that politics does indeed make strange bedfellows was this: Ms. Matalin was chastised by former President George Bush last year for a campaign memo that referred to "bumbo eruptions," a none-too-subtle effort to make an issue of allegations that Mr. Clinton was a womaniser. In American slang, a bumbo is a pretty but not very bright young woman.

Powell receives Reagan award

SIMI VALLEY, California (R) — Former President Ronald Reagan presented his Freedom Award to Retired General Colin Powell and both men urged swift passage of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). Gen. Powell, who stepped down in September as the 12th chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and is considered a possible future candidate for president, received the award at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library in this Los Angeles suburb. The award, which is not an official U.S. government award, honours people who make "significant contributions to the freedom of mankind" and was given for the first time last year to former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev. Before highlighting Gen. Powell's achievements during a 35-year military career, Mr. Reagan urged Congress to pass NAFTA which comes up for a make-or-break vote in the House of Representatives on Nov. 17.

France cracks down on FIS

PARIS (AFP) — French police held 13 suspected Algerian Muslim fundamentalists Wednesday, including the head of a movement believed to be a front for Algeria's outlawed Islamic Salvation Front (FIS).

Police also seized "very interesting" documents, including a "list of people to eliminate," among papers recovered in the Paris region on Tuesday as part of a nationwide crackdown in which about 100 Algerians were detained, a source close to the investigation said.

The documents were found when police detained Djaffer Al Houari, president of the Algerian Brotherhood in France (FAF), and the movement's spokesman, Moussah Kraouche, with two unidentified associates, the source added.

Police found a copy of a letter given to Michele Thevenot, one of three French consular workers seized in Algeria by armed fundamentalists on Oct. 24 and released one week later after an operation by security forces.

Apart from the hit list, the other documents seized included two statements attributed to the Armed Islamic Group (GIA), which claimed

responsibility for kidnapping the consular officials.

The number of a fax machine in London from where "a statement was reportedly issued claiming responsibility for the murder of two French surveyors in Algeria" on Sept. 21 was also seized, informed sources said.

There was also a copy of a communique from a Supreme Council of the Islamic Armed Forces (CSFAI), which "largely prompted" the raids, and a "suum of money," sources said.

Interior ministry sources said six people had been placed under house arrest, but the remaining detainees were set free.

Searches in Lyon turned up stationery with the FIS letterhead and numerous copies of Muslim fundamentalist publications that are banned in France, police said.

The Algerian Brotherhood was registered with French police in Jan. 1991 as an organisation strengthening "cultural links between Algerians and immigrants" but last June authorities banned two of its publications because of their "violently anti-Western and anti-French" language.

The group denies links to the

FIS, but was known to have encouraged Algerians in France to vote for the movement in general elections in December 1991. The Algerian army stepped in to cancel the second round the following month, sparking a guerrilla war with supporters of the FIS, subsequently outlawed.

Tuesday's carefully prepared crackdown to dismantle active FIS networks was mounted by several branches of the security services, including France's counter-espionage and intelligence divisions.

Government spokesman Nicolas Sarkozy said Wednesday the "operation aims simply to ensure that on everybody on French territory scrupulously respects the law," echoing a statement from Prime Minister Edouard Balladur.

French police said they believed there were between 50 and 100 "hard core" militants linked to the FIS in France, with the vast majority of the Algerian community of some 800,000 in France opposed to the movement's extremist beliefs.

Newspapers in Algeria on Wednesday plastered their front pages with stories on the crackdown.

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Suspected PLO spy unaware he was reporting to Mossad

TUNIS (R) — A Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) official arrested for spying has told interrogators he thought it was foreign businessmen, not the Israeli secret service, that persuaded him to bug the office of the man who signed the PLO-Israel peace agreement.

Adnan Yassin, an assistant Palestine Ambassador to Hakam Balawi, was arrested two weeks ago after Tunisian security found sophisticated transmitters in a chair and a table lamp in the office of Mahmoud Abbas (Abu Mazen).

Mr. Yassin, 47, had sent his son Hani to Marseille in France early in September to pick up the chair and lamp on behalf of people Mr. Yassin thought were businessmen seeking political information about the PLO, interrogators said Wednesday.

"Until the day he was arrested he had been thinking he was providing political information to businessmen working with NATO. He only received evidence they were from Mossad (the Israeli secret service) when he was interrogated," said one.

But the inquiry, conducted by Tunisian security for one week and then by PLO interrogators, has definitely concluded that he was working for Mossad, they said.

The inquiry has not concluded that Mr. Yassin had anything to do with the killing of PLO officials in recent years, nor that he had dealt with explosives or any plan to assassinate PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, they told Reuters.

They also said they did not believe the spying came to light

as a result of a tip-off from the French secret service, as widely reported by Middle East and French media.

The main damage to the PLO was that Israel had a direct line into Abu Mazen's office for two weeks at a time when he was working out PLO strategy for negotiations on implementing the self-rule agreement he signed with Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres in Washington on Sept. 13, they said.

Adnan Yassin, 47, had been an administrator at the PLO embassy in Tunis since 1970. His responsibility grew after the PLO moved its headquarters to Tunis in 1982. His boss Balawi recently became coordinator of PLO security services.

In Marseille Hani Yassin, 24, who has also been arrested but who says he was not aware of his father's connections, picked up the lamp, the chair and a used Renault delivery van with help from one of his father's "friends."

"I was with the man when he bought the chair and the lamp in a store," Hani is reported to have told the PLO interrogators.

The ergonomic chair and the table lamp were installed in Mr. Abbas's office on Oct. 10 and three days later Mossad congratulated Mr. Yassin. "It works," his Europe-based contacts are reported to have told him.

Not for long. Mr. Abbas incidentally asked Tunisian security to check his office because several foreign television crews had been alone in the room briefly while preparing for interviews, PLO security sources said.

Tunisians discovered the

bugs and the Interior Ministry summoned Mr. Yassin, who had been one of their Palestinian contacts for routine liaison. They immediately removed his diplomatic immunity and questioned him and his son Hani for one week in presence of a PLO official.

On Nov. 4 they handed Mr. Yassin over to PLO security and told the press they were no longer dealing with the case.

PLO sources said Mossad agents posing as businessmen recruited Mr. Yassin in 1990 in France and Germany, where he had taken his wife for medical treatments.

"They proposed I do business with them and promised to enter in association with me and my son. Then they said they have contracts with NATO and that to facilitate the contracts, they need to provide NATO with political intelligence information on the PLO," Mr. Yassin is reported to have told his PLO interrogators.

Sources close to the interrogators said Mossad agents gave him tens of thousands of dollars.

The inquiry so far has shown that much of the information he gave was on the movements of PLO officials between Tunisia and abroad and on secret visits to Tunis by Palestinians from the occupied territories or Israelis. Israel banned such visits.

Mr. Yassin had to know about the visits to arrange entry procedures with the Tunisian authorities.

The sources said Mr. Yassin and his son are still under interrogation in a PLO prison and will eventually be referred to a PLO court. They did not say when or where.